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NEARBY



Sitaram Yechury meets
Tarigami in Srinagar

Srinagar
CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday became the first national leader to enter Srinagar city since August 5 and met his ailing party colleague and former legislator, M.Y. Tarigami. The visit comes a day after the Supreme Court granted him permission to meet Mr. Tarigami.

NEWS • PAGE 13

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FRIDAY REVIEW • 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

Those excluded from final NRC will get a window of 10 months

Police officials in Assam brace for 'crisis' ahead of publication of register

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Those excluded from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31 will get a window of 10 months to prove their citizenship before being sent to detention centres, even as police officers in Assam on Thursday prepared to face an unprecedented "crisis".

"We cannot say how many will be left out. But each of them will have a window of at least 10 months to challenge his or her exclusion," Assam's Additional Chief Secretary in charge of the Home and Political Departments Kumar Sanjay Krishna said.

The publication of the register could be the start of an



Calm before the storm: Security personnel guarding an NRC office ahead of the release of the final list in Guwahati. ■ AFP

unprecedented complication – more of the humanitarian kind than of law and order, police officers said.

However, the outgoing DGP, Kuladhar Saikia, said the police and other forces had ensured that security

was in place before Saturday. "I believe this entire process will be completed peacefully with awareness and sensitisation drives preceding the exercise," he said.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

More notices issued for re-verification

People included in the draft National Register of Citizens published in July last year but suspected to be foreigners continue to receive notices for re-verification of their documents, days before the publication of the final list. The NRC authority said there was nothing unusual about the notices. "Some people may be summoned on Friday too. The process will continue until the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court," a spokesperson said. ▶ PAGE 12

Lack of demand is hobbling the economy's animal spirits, says RBI

Central bank stresses need to revive investment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its annual report for 2018-19, has said the lack of domestic demand is holding back the animal spirits in the economy and emphasised the need to revive consumption demand and private investment during 2019-20.

"What ails the animal spirits? At the core of the issue of domestic demand," the RBI said in the annual report.

The report said the recent deceleration could be in the nature of a soft patch mutating into a cyclical downsw-

Dip in ₹2,000 note circulation

The ₹2,000 currency notes have dropped in circulation in the past year. The RBI report said 3,363 million pieces were in circulation as on March-end 2018 and the number dropped to 3,291 million in the year ended March 2019. ▶ PAGE 15

ing, rather than a deep structural slowdown.

"Nonetheless, there are still structural issues in land, labour, agricultural marketing and the like, which need

Bank frauds go up by 74%

The value of bank frauds went up 73.8% during 2018-19, compared with the previous year. In terms of the number of cases, it was up 15%, the RBI's report said. Banks had taken 55 months, on an average, to report large frauds. ▶ PAGE 15

to be addressed," the report said, adding that the policy focus at this point should remain on improving the ease of doing business.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Kandla, Adani ports put on security alert

Inputs warn of terror threats from sea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The country's two largest ports, Kandla and Adani in Gujarat, were put on high alert, along with the entire Gulf of Kutch, after intelligence agencies shared inputs of a possible entry by Pakistan-trained commandos through the Harami Naala creek to carry out underwater attacks.

However, the alerts turned out to be "precautionary" in nature.

Informed sources told *The Hindu* that "the inputs were meant to warn that there was a likelihood of such attacks".

What created confusion

was the wording used by the authorities that "commandos have entered the Gulf of Kutch via the Harami Naala creek area," and that the "commandos were trained in underwater attacks".

According to a top official, a "routine advisory" issued by the agencies created confusion, and the two ports were put on high alert.

The authorities asked all shipping agents to ensure the safety of berthed vessels and those arriving for berthing. They asked all stakeholders to step up security and remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

A new high



Fighting fit: A student climbing a wall at the launch of the Fit India Movement at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched in New Delhi the nationwide drive for a healthier future. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

Russia set to offer submarines during Modi-Putin summit

Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft may also be sold

DINAKAR PERI
MOSCOW

Russia is likely to offer India its conventional submarines on the government-to-government route under the Navy's Project-751 at the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin at Vladivostok next week, Russian officials said.

"Russian conventional submarines will be offered through the government-to-government route to India at the summit. This will save a lot of time in the procurement process," one official said.

"The possibility of offering India the Su-57, the Russian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), is also being explored, but it has not been

Strengthening defence

Reviewing defence cooperation will be on top of the agenda during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia next week



- The deal to manufacture at least 200 Ka-226T Utility helicopters for the Indian Army and Air Force is likely to get a boost
- The two leaders will also review

the setting up of a manufacturing plant in India for Ak-203 assault rifles

■ Russia is likely to offer its conventional submarine for the Navy's P-751 tender

■ Russia might consider an offer of Su-57 Russian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (in picture) to India

decided yet," he said.

The Navy is looking to buy six advanced conventional diesel-electric submarines under Project 751 that, after several delays, has made progress in the past several months. The procurement is

under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model, and is the second project to be processed through this route after the Navy's tender for utility helicopters.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

U.S. again expresses concern on J&K

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Three days after U.S. President Donald Trump met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France and discussed the situation in Kashmir, American officials said they were "concerned" about the continuing communication restrictions and detentions.

Mr. Trump had said that during their discussion on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Modi

had said that he "really feels he has it under control", and that India and Pakistan could resolve the issue bilaterally. Sources told *The Hindu* that diplomats from different embassies, including senior U.S. and U.K. officials, had been meeting External Affairs Ministry officials over the past few days to stress that they were watching the situation closely.

DETAILS ON • PAGE 13

Free travel for women gets Cabinet nod

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday accorded in-principle approval to free travel for women aboard Delhi Transport Corporation and cluster buses beginning October 29, the State government said in a statement.

DETAILS ON • PAGE 3

Schoolmates shun Dalits during midday meal

Probe ordered into U.P. school incident after video goes viral; BSP chief demands action

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A government primary school in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district has landed in a caste discrimination controversy after some students did not have their midday meals alongside Dalit schoolmates.

The matter came to light after a video of the school during the midday meal session, apparently shot by media persons, was widely

shared on social media.

While Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati demanded strict legal action by the State government against those guilty of "such disgusting casteist discrimination", the district administration said the complaints of caste-based discrimination were prima facie "entirely baseless".

But P. Gupta, principal of the Rampur-1 primary school, admitted to "slight

discrimination" that the Dalit students faced from others. He said some of the other students did not want to eat in the same plates as Dalit students – they bring their own plates and eat separately.

"We make them sit in a line but they – perhaps they get taught that at home – display slight discrimination," said Mr. Gupta.

Despite warning the students several times and

teaching them about equality, Mr. Gupta said they sit and eat in their allotted lines for a short while but once the teachers move away, move out and eat separately.

Ballia DM's denial

The school has mostly Dalit and Scheduled Tribe students with a few coming from the OBC communities, said the principal.

Ballia DM Bhawani Singh

Women in Music launches India chapter

Aims to promote gender parity and women's visibility in the Indian music industry

BHUMIKA PRUTHI
MUMBAI

Women in Music (WIM), a New York-based global non-profit has launched its India chapter to work towards promoting gender parity and women's visibility in the Indian music industry

Priyanka Khimani, chair of India chapter, said WIM would work to attain 50-50 representation in the music industry, a goal the organisation has been working on since it was established in New York in 1985.

On the specific conditions in India, Ms. Khimani said,

"It is important because in general in India there are less women in the workforce and many often take a back seat mid-career. Take any record label, Over The Top (OTT) platform, or publishers and you will not find women in senior leadership. There are no women CEOs and clearly, there is disproportion. It is surprising to see disparity even on the creative side and we need to change that," she said.

Ms. Khimani, who is a co-founder and lead partner at the city-based law firm, Anand and Anand and Khimani, represents several



Inclusive group: Singers at the launch of the Indian chapter of Women in Music, a New York-based global non-profit.

top-billed music artists including Lata Mangeshkar, Kalyanji-Anandji, A.R. Rahman, Vishal-Shekhar, Sunidhi Chauhan and new

wave stars Shirley Sethia, Harshdeep Kaur and Vidya Vox.

"They are all my clients and thus, I have a strong

inclination towards the music industry. Every year, I curate a conference called 'All about music.' Last year, at the conference, we announced that we will be launching Women in Music in India and finally we had our first, inaugural event on Monday," she said.

Terming it an inclusive group, Ms. Khimani said any artist associated with the industry, lawyers representing them, and production houses, could join the community. "The idea is to create a pool and enable connectivity between stakeholders in the industry," she added.

Patna High Court withdraws judicial work from judge

11-judge Bench suspends order issued by him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Patna High Court has withdrawn all judicial work from a sitting senior judge, Rakesh Kumar, who had in the course of hearing a corruption case against a former IAS officer on Wednesday highlighted the "state of corruption in the judicial system". An 11-judge Bench also suspended Justice Kumar's order and ruled that no action ordered by him would be taken.

"All the matters pending before Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar, sitting singly including tied up/part heard

or otherwise stand withdrawn with immediate effect," read a notice issued by the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on August 28.

"The registrar will implement the order forthwith subject to further orders with regard to the formation of the Bench," the Bench said in the notice, which came into the public domain on Thursday.

No jurisdiction

The Bench also observed that their fellow judge had no "jurisdiction to pass such an order on a case that had been closed".

Bihar Advocate General Lalit Kishore told journalists that the Bench expressed serious concern over the order passed by Justice Kumar in which he has raised questions over the majesty of the court and the integrity of the judicial system.

Justice Kumar, in his 20-page order, had questioned how retired IAS officer K.P. Ramaiah was granted bail in a corruption case when the HC as well as the Supreme Court had rejected it. Mr. Ramaiah was accused of misappropriation of ₹5 crore in the Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission when he was its CEO.

A ND-NDE

Free travel for women gets Delhi Cabinet nod

Scheme beginning Oct. 29 is not restricted to the city alone but will be available in NCR as well

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday accorded in-principle approval to free travel for women aboard Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses beginning October 29, the Delhi government said in a statement.

According to the statement, the decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and entails the provision of free, single-journey duration passes for women commuters wishing to avail the facility of free travel on DTC and cluster buses.

Free travel will not only be available for women commuters within the jurisdiction of the Capital but also on State-run bus services in Noida and the National Capital Region in addition to the airport and other special services, the statement said



Women will be able to get free rides using 'single-journey passes'. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Further, "Single journey duration passes will be issued to women passengers in DTC and cluster buses... The free travel scheme will be voluntary which means any woman passenger who wants to purchase a journey ticket will be free to do so," the statement

said adding that the scheme would also apply to women passengers carrying luggage within the limit prescribed by DTC.

According to government statistics, during November 2017, the total number of passengers who utilised the Delhi Metro was 25.08 lakh

while 32.76 lakh commuters travelled aboard DTC buses and 12.38 lakh used cluster buses.

According to the statement, the DTC would be reimbursed at the rate of ₹10 per single journey duration pass issued by it to commuters and similar payment would be made in the designated account of the cluster scheme for "proper accounting" of the facility by the Delhi government.

The Cabinet, according to the statement, also directed the DTC to propose "suitable amendments" in the DTC (free & concessional passes) Regulations, 1985, subject to any alterations, if any, so that the same may be notified in the official gazette.

"DTC and DIMTS will strengthen their ticket checking mechanisms to ensure that the facility is not misused and to plug any possible

pilferage in issuance of passes for free travel of women," the statement added.

Transport allowance

However, the statement clarified, women officers and officials of the Delhi government, local bodies and undertakings will not be entitled for transport allowance in case they opt for the free travel facility in DTC and cluster buses.

"The departments, autonomous bodies etc. will take an undertaking from their women government servants to the effect that they are not availing this free travel facility. Transport Department shall also write to Ministry of Finance, Government of India, after the implementation of scheme to consider issuing necessary instructions to all the Ministries/departments/autonomous bodies located in Delhi," it added.

Two coaches of Telangana Express catch fire in Faridabad

No casualties; flames were noticed after the brake binding of train

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Two coaches of the Hyderabad-New Delhi Telangana Express caught fire near Asaoti railway station in Haryana's Faridabad on Thursday. However, no casualties were reported.

The fire was noticed after the brake binding of the New Delhi-bound train (Train No. 12723) at 7.43 a.m. it spread to the coaches. The train stopped between Asaoti and Ballabgarh railway stations due to flames and heavy smoke emanating from the wheels of the ninth coach from the rear.

"Following the incident, both upward and downward movements of the trains were stopped on the track. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Both the coaches



Coaches of the Hyderabad-New Delhi Telangana Express up in flames near Asaoti station on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

were isolated. The fire was controlled. All the passengers were safe," said Deepak Kumar, Chief PRO, Northern Railway.

The movement on the upline was resumed at 10.13 a.m. while the downline was opened to traffic an hour later. The front portion of the

train arrived at New Delhi railway station around noon.

Mr. Kumar said that it was not immediately known as to what caused the fire and the matter was under investigation.

One of the two coaches was gutted in the fire.

Woman toll collector assaulted; accused held

She refused free passage to accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

In yet another incident of misbehaviour and assault on a staffer at Kherki Daula toll plaza over refusal to pay the toll charges, a 26-year-old woman toll collector was allegedly slapped and abused by a local villager after she refused him free passage. The accused, Rahul, a resident of Shikhopur village, has been arrested.

Soni Kumar, the complainant, was manning lane no. 11 when Rahul reached the toll gate in his car. He refused to pay the toll charges and when Soni insisted, he stepped out of the vehicle and engaged in a scuffle with her. Rahul allegedly slapped Soni, abused her and also threatened to eliminate her. The entire incident was caught on the closed-circuit television camera.

An FIR was registered at Kherki Daula police station on charges of causing hurt, criminal intimidation and using obscene language. The accused was arrested a few

hours later and sent to jail. Grappling with instances of frequent altercations between motorists and male toll operators, Skylark Group – the company that operates the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway – had deployed women toll collectors in April 2017, hoping to reduce such cases. But there has been no let up and many incidents of misbehaviour and assault on women toll collectors have been reported.

Past incidents

In a similar incident, 40-year-old gym owner Manjeet, also a resident of Shikhopur village, had assaulted and threatened to kill and rape a woman toll collector in June this year seeking free passage. He was later arrested. Manjeet was co-accused in the 2011 murder case wherein his friend Vijay Veer had shot dead a toll collector at Kherki Daula over payment of toll charges. Vijay had allegedly shot Umesh Kumar Pandey on September 23.

Six women held for honeytrapping men

They were nabbed for extorting money

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Six women were arrested from Rohini for allegedly honeytrapping men to extort money from them, the police said on Thursday.

According to the police, they received a complaint where the complainant stated that he was in contact with a woman for the last two-three months. On Tuesday, the complainant had gone to pocket-6, Rohini Sector-2 to meet the woman, where he met two more women. She asked one of the women to take him to a room, the police said.

Meanwhile, someone knocked the door and the woman opened it. "Two men, two women and three girls entered the room and took nude pictures and videos of the man," the police said.

Demand ₹30 lakh

They allegedly threatened to post his videos and pictures on social media and demanded ₹30 lakh from

Two men, two women and three girls entered the room and took nude pictures and videos of the man

POLICE

him. "The deal was finalised at ₹10 lakh and the victim called his relative and asked him to arrange the money," they said.

Thereafter, the victim's relative gave money to a person near Rajouri Garden Gate, the police said.

The accused released the victim and threatened that they will post his pictures and videos on social media if he report the matter to the police, they said.

But the victim approached the police and lodged a complaint. During investigation, six women were arrested, a senior police officer said.

They were produced before the court and two of them were sent to one-day police remand. The extorted amount is yet to be recovered, they said.

Man stabbed to death at de-addiction centre

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by a person at a drug de-addiction centre in south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur after an argument over stolen water motor, the police said on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Manoj Balsoiya, a resident of Aliganj in Kotla Mubarakpur.

"The police received information at 8.19 p.m. regarding stabbing of a person at a de-addiction centre in Babu Park area and a team rushed to the spot," a senior police officer said.

Balsoiya, who sustained injuries, was rushed to AI-IMS where he was declared brought dead.

During investigation, it was found that one Saheer

stole the water motor of Balsoiya's cousin and was later caught by the victim, the police said.

The victim's uncle Sonu said that an altercation took place between Balsoiya and Saheer inside the centre on Wednesday afternoon.

In the evening, Saheer came to the centre and stabbed Balsoiya and escaped from the spot. Saheer and Balsoiya had known each other for sometime, they said. The police have registered a case under various Sections of the IPC. Several teams have been deployed to apprehend Saheer, the police said.

Balsoiya is survived by wife Sarita (28) and two children. He had worked as a driver at Safdarjung hospital and was the sole breadwinner.

Raymond

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JANAKPURI	B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543, Adj. Umang Palace.
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LAJPAT NAGAR	49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand, Crossing, Delhi

Economy Sales: 23639218

Man escapes from police custody

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An alleged snatcher escaped from custody from Samaypur Badli police station on Tuesday. The police have launched a man-hunt for him.

DCP (Outer-North) Gaurav Sharma said that the accused Rohit (21) was arrested in connection with a mobile phone snatching case on Tuesday evening and he escaped from custody late in the night.

Former govt. official H.C. Gupta acquitted in coal allocation case

Prosecution miserably failed to prove the charges: judge

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday acquitted former Coal Secretary H.C. Gupta and a private company in a coal block allocation case.

The company, Messrs Pushp Steels and Mining, was allocated a coal block in Brahmapuri in Madhya Pradesh.

Allegations

The CBI alleged that the screening committee headed by Mr. Gupta allocated the coal block to the company without

any recommendation either by the Madhya Pradesh government or by the administrative ministry – Ministry of Steel.

Acquitting the former bureaucrat, special judge Bharat Parashar said: "Certainly H.C. Gupta was playing a major role in the coal block allocation process but as the basic essential ingredient of the offence of criminal breach of trust by a public servant i.e. of Section 409 IPC or that of the offence of criminal misconduct by a public servant i.e. of

Section 13 (1) (c) P.C. Act, 1988, that the public servant concerned must have been entrusted with the property in question or he must be having dominion/control over the property in question does not stand proved as regard Mr. Gupta," the judge said.

As the prosecution miserably failed to prove the charges of criminal misconduct, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy, the court acquits both accused of all the offences, the judge said.

Special educators: 151 schools get notices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A child rights body of the Delhi government has found that 151 schools in the city do not have special educators for children with special needs and issued show-cause notices to them. PTI

SRF Virasat
Address by His Holiness the Dalai Lama
for School Students

20 Sept. The Shriram School, Vasant Vihar 10 am
Registrations by schools is mandatory by September 13th
at : gni.rajiyaspicmacay.com, 9699465865
(5 students and 1 teacher from each school)
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Inauguration
of
10 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres
Through Video Link By
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

GRACIOUS PRESENCE

Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Rattan Lal Kataria
Union Minister of State, Jal Shakti, Social Justice & Empowerment

Anil Vij
Health, AYUSH and Sports & Youth Affairs Minister, Haryana

Gian Chand Gupta
MLA, Panchkula

Date: August 30, 2019 Time: 10:30 A.M.
Venue: Red Bishop, Sector-1, Panchkula

AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres in Haryana

Panchkula (Sector-9)

Ambala (Bara)

Kaithal (Barsana)

Karnal (Staudni)

Jind (Sulehra)

Hisar (Rakhi Shahpur)

Sonapat (Mahra)

Gurugram (Kasan)

Faridabad (Shahjanpur)

Nuh (Kairaka)

CM A ND-NDE

Dengue cases down by 80%

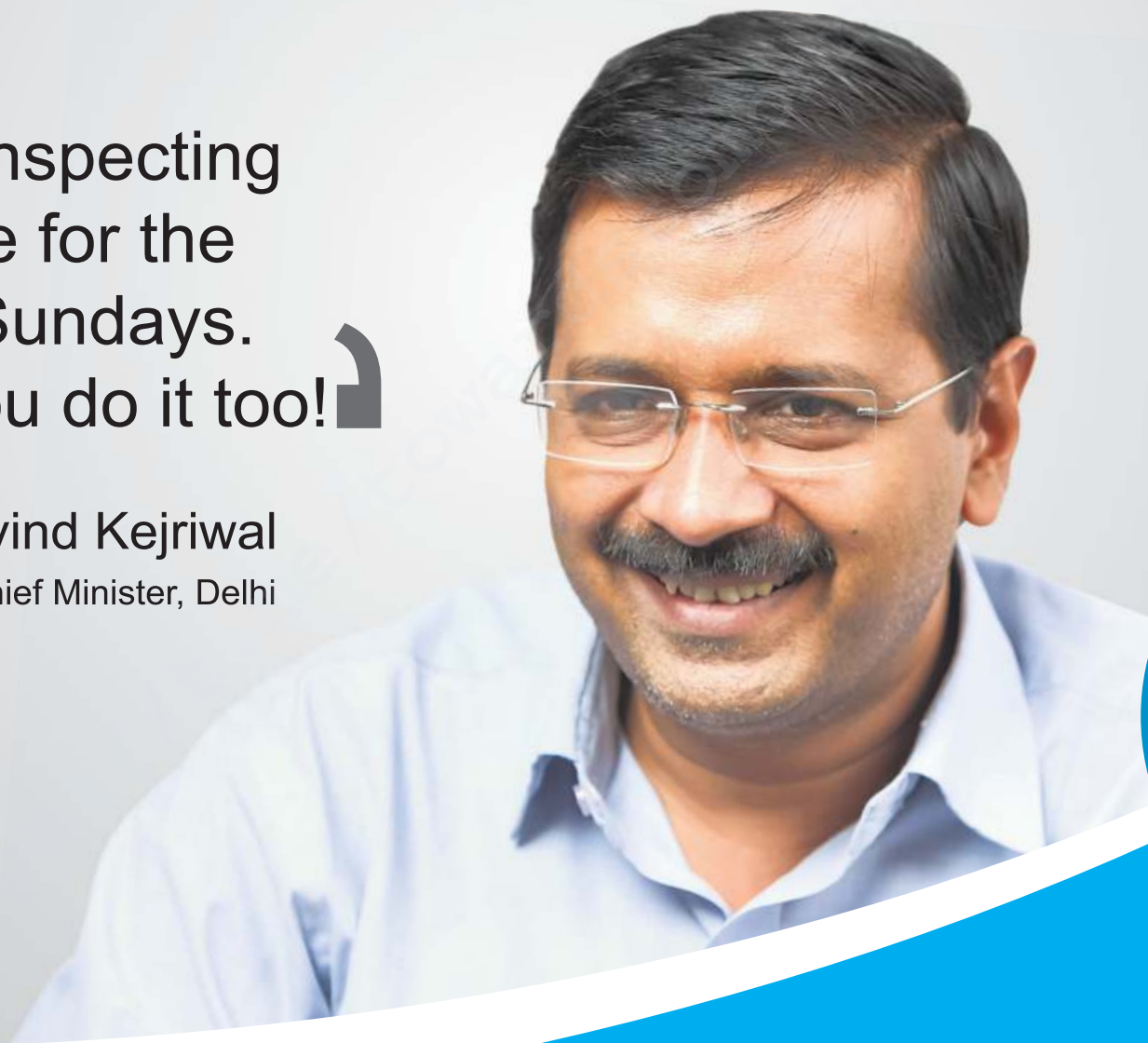
2015 : 15,867 cases

2018 : 2,798 cases

Delhi is prepared once again!

“I will be inspecting my house for the next 10 Sundays. I hope you do it too!”

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



डेंगू चे
वार हर
रविवार

Dear Delhiites,
This year too, we have to come together to fight against Dengue.
1st September onwards.

10 हफ्ते, 10 बजे, 10 मिनट
हर रविवार, डेंगू पर वार।

Know about Dengue

- The Dengue mosquito breeds in stagnant clean water.
- The Dengue mosquito grows from an egg into a mosquito in 8-10 days. If clean water is not allowed to stand, the mosquito will not be able to breed.
- The Dengue mosquito's flight range is approximately 200 meters. If someone in your house contracts Dengue, then it is likely that the mosquitoes have either originated from your or your neighbour's house. It is important to check your home and also that of your neighbours for your family's health and wellbeing.

10 minutes, every Sunday

- For the next 10 weeks, we all need to set aside 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday. Check flower pots, coolers, vases or anywhere inside or outside your house to make sure that clean water has not accumulated. If you find there is an accumulation of clean water, pour it out, change it or add petrol or oil to it.

Just 10 Sundays

- Most Dengue cases occur in the monsoon or just after that. During this period, there are 10 Sundays. If we dedicate 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday for this, we can get rid of Dengue and Chikungunya. We need to spend less than two hours over 10 weeks. In the last five years, Dengue and Chikungunya have been brought under control, and this year, we will do it again!

Let's come together!

- If you have inspected your house, do take a selfie inside your house and WhatsApp it to 8287972050. Together, we will make Delhi Dengue-free.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

दिल्ली फिर कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Chacko to step down once DPCC gets a new chief

He has been in-charge of Delhi Congress for over 4 years now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Once Congress president Sonia Gandhi appoints a new chief for the party's Delhi unit ahead of the Assembly elections, senior Congress leader P.C. Chacko on Thursday said he would like to step down from his post of the party in-charge of Delhi. Mr. Chacko told *The Hindu* that he has conveyed this to Ms. Gandhi when he met her last week to start the process of finding a new Congress chief for Delhi after the death of former Chief Minister and Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) chief Sheila Dikshit. "When I met madam [Ms. Gandhi], I told her that I would like to be relieved from this post as I have been handling it for over four



P.C. Chacko

years," he told *The Hindu*, adding that Ms. Gandhi made it clear that choosing the next DPCC chief was a priority at the moment.

'Not before elections'
"I am not leaving ahead of the elections or anything like that. I would like to step

down only after a new DPCC head is appointed," he clarified.

Mr. Chacko said he has been working as the All India Congress Committee in-charge of Delhi Congress for the past four-and-a-half years and had overseen many elections. He said a new president taking charge should be followed by a new Delhi in-charge.

The former MP, who once headed the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 2G Spectrum allocation issue, wants the Congress leadership to consider him for a different assignment within the party.

The Congress is seeking to rebuild itself in Delhi by pitching itself as an alternative to the Aam Aadmi Party that will complete its five-year term by next February.

Audit records multiple financial irregularities in SDMC

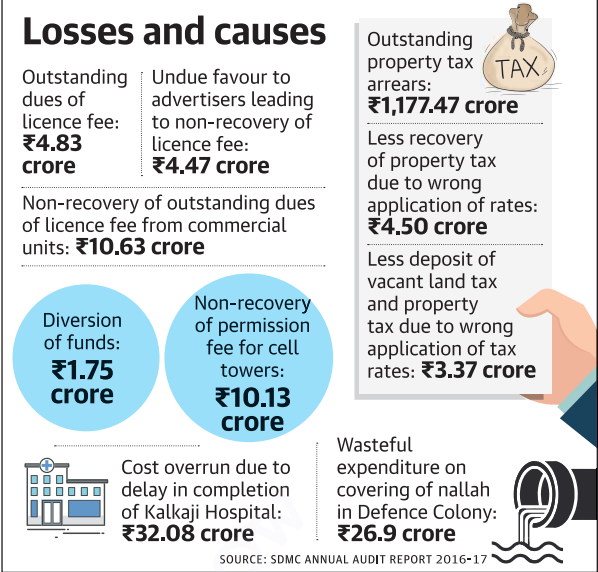
Issues include incorrect valuation of properties, non-collection of outstanding fees, fund diversions

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

The annual audit report for the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for 2016-2017, tabled during the Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, observed multiple irregularities in various departments, leading to a financial implication of ₹1,678.45 crore.

Issues include undue favours to builders, advertising agents; incorrect valuation of properties, such as farmhouses; non-collection of outstanding fees worth several crore of rupees; irregular diversion of funds and others.

The 202-page report contains at least 39 audit observations which detail shortfalls pertaining to departments of accounts and finance, property tax, advertisement, licensing, engineering, building, environment, land and estate and health. A major chunk of the



financial implications comes from the property tax department. The SDMC did not collect property tax amounting to ₹1177.47 crore from both the government and private properties during the period prior to 2004, the report states. Records show that the civic body has also been very slow in recovering the outstanding dues. The report recommended a concrete plan be developed to recover the dues. Other audit observations are related to the wrong classification and self-assessment

Man stabbed, shot dead in south Delhi

Victim had an altercation with accused

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man was stabbed and shot dead in south Delhi's Tigri on Wednesday night, the police said on Thursday. They have registered a case and begun probe.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Parvinder Singh said that the victim has been identified as Rohit, a resident of Tigri's JJ Camp, who had two cases of causing hurt registered against him.

The police said that they received a call at 11.10 p.m. regarding a person who was shot at. When they reached the spot, they were told that the victim had been taken to a private hospital by his relatives. "When the police reached the hospital, they were told that the man, identified as Rohit, has succumbed to injuries," Mr. Singh said.

During investigation, it was revealed that Rohit was

killed by another resident of Tigri, identified as Akash, and his accomplices. "Rohit and Akash had an altercation in the afternoon over some petty issue. Later in the night, Akash came along with his brother Annu, Kapil and a few others. They stopped Rohit when he was on his way home and stabbed him eight times before shooting him twice from a close range," the Additional DCP said, adding that the accused then managed to flee from the spot.

The police said that Akash has one case of murder and another of causing grievous hurt registered against him earlier.

Manhunt on

Mr. Singh said that a case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Tigri police station and efforts are on to nab the accused.

BJP launches Parivartan Yatra for Assembly polls

Sources in AAP say party will launch yatra in Sept. to counter BJP's initiative

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi unit of the BJP on Thursday launched the 'Delhi Bachao Parivartan Yatra' aimed at garnering support for the party in the Delhi Assembly election due next year.

The Parivartan Yatra, which was launched at the Ramlila Maidan in Bhalaswa Dairy here, will pass through all the 14 districts and 70 Assembly constituencies of the Capital.

"The Kejriwal government has betrayed the people of Delhi. Hence, the time has come to dislodge it. He [the CM] has been obstructing the regularisation of unauthorised colonies, while the Central government is providing ownership rights to the people living in unauthorised colonies," Manoj Tiwari, the State BJP chief, said.

The North East Delhi MP further alleged that the Delhi government had been "in-

involved in corruption for 54 months" and failed to fulfil the promises made to the people of the Capital and now needed to be "dislodged."

Meanwhile, sources in the AAP said the party is also planning to launch a yatra in the first week of September to counter the BJP's yatra.

An AAP leader said, "The yatra will start from September 1 and will be headed by Gopal Rai, who is the party's Delhi in-charge." The AAP also aims at covering all the 70

Assembly constituencies in the Capital, the leader said.

The AAP had in June launched 'Aapka Vidhayak Aapke Dwar', a public outreach programme, after the party lost all seven seats it contested in the Lok Sabha election in Delhi.

Though the Delhi Assembly election is due in February 2020, there have been rumours that it could be held earlier. The same was, however, denied by the Election Commission.

'Act against AAP government for cheating autorickshaw drivers'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A delegation of BJP leaders on Thursday called on L-G Anil Bajjal demanding action against the Delhi government for financially cheating more than one lakh autorickshaw drivers across the city since 2016.

The delegation, which consisted of Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi As-

sembly Vijender Gupta MLAs O.P. Sharma, M.S. Sirsa and Jagdish Pradhan, also had representatives from e-rickshaw, Gramin Sewa, Phat Phat Sewa and Taxi unions.

"We demanded strong action against the Delhi government which has collected GPS charges from such vehicles, notwithstanding the fact that the

Central government had exempted them from payment of these charges in 2016 under the Nirbhaya Scheme," Mr. Gupta said, adding that the Delhi government reimburse autorickshaw drivers in lieu of these "illegally collected charges" allegedly amounting to several crores of rupees.

According to Mr. Gupta,

the delegation further informed the L-G that the Delhi government had committed "serious violation of the Central government rules" as notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways by collecting GPS charges from the affected autorickshaw drivers all these years.

The Delhi government, the BJP delegation submit-

ted further, "wilfully and deliberately" did not give sufficient time to all public owners to respond to public notice regarding amendment in Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993.

The Delhi government, the delegation said, owed an explanation to people on why it was "collecting double the charges" all these years.

railways.

Noting that despite the man lodging a complaint, no action was taken, the consumer panel observed, "We find that [Northern Railway] was deficient in its services as despite having a grievance cell and maintaining a complaint book, no action on the complaint was taken. Therefore, having a grievance call and maintaining a complaint book seems to be farce and eye wash for the public at large."

DELHI ☀️ Timings

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

RISE 05:58 SET 18:45

RISE 05:31 SET 19:01

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

RISE 05:59 SET 18:44

RISE 06:40 SET 19:44

SUNDAY, SEPT. 01

RISE 05:59 SET 18:43

RISE 07:49 SET 20:24

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	38	29
Safdarjang	38	29
Palam	37	28

Delhi Palam Today
37°C A humid and uneasy morning. Day will be very warm with a partly cloudy sky. Short spells of light rain are possible.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C Warm and humid weather with a cloudy sky. Spell of rain and thundershowers are likely.

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THE HINDU

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Rahul S/o Sh. Lalit Mishra R/o: Gali Khatikan Himmat Garh, Hauz Qazi, Central Delhi, has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 127/18 U/s 392/411 IPC has been registered at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person Rahul cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person namely Rahul absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rahul of case FIR No. 127/18 U/s 392/411 IPC, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.10.2019.

By Order
Sh. Prigya Gupta
Metropolitan Magistrate-12, (Central), Room No. 21
DP/6528/CD/19
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

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डी.1(1)ओएमएसएस (डी) / एडीसी. / 19-20 / दिनांक-30.08.2019
ई-नीलामी द्वारा भारतीय खाद्य निगम (भा.खा.नि.), हरियाणा क्षेत्र से ओपन मार्केट सेल स्कीम (डोमेस्टिक) [ओ.एम.एस.एस.सी.] के अधीन गेहूँ व चावल की बिक्री
ई-नीलामी के बारे में सारी जानकारियाँ Wheat Bulk, Wheat Dedicated & Rice Tender फार्म में दी गई है जो कि भा.खा.नि. की वेबसाइट fci.gov.in और म. एम-जंक्शन (M-Junction) वेबसाइट www.valuejunction.in/fci पर उपलब्ध है।
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30.08.19	03.09.19	04.09.19 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक
06.09.19	11.09.19	12.09.19 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक
13.09.19	17.09.19	18.09.19 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक
20.09.19	24.09.19	25.09.19 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक

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अतिअल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा रिफरेंस नं0-NIT-07NPS/2019-20

क्र0	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	निविदा शुल्क	अग्रधन राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय
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- ई0-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय —11.09.2019 से 14.09.2019 को अपराह्न 03 बजे तक।
- कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय, नगर पंचायत सरायकेला में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलौड किये गये योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय —16.09.2019 को अपराह्न 02 बजे तक।
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- निविदादाता को यू-केन रजिस्ट्रेशन की फोटो कॉपी अपलौड करना अनिवार्य है।

नोट: उक्त निविदा का निष्पादन एन0आई0टी0 में उल्लेखित शर्तों के अनुरूप होगा तथा निविदा समिति का निर्णय अंतिम होगा, जिसके विरुद्ध न्यायालय में किसी भी प्रकार का वाद मान्य नहीं होगा तथा आवंटन उपलब्ध होने पर ही भुगतान किया जायेगा। विशेष जानकारी के लिए कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है। निविदा शुल्क बैंक द्वारा निगित बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, सरायकेला नगर पंचायत, सरायकेला के पक्ष में जो आई0डी0बी0आई0 बैंक, सरायकेला शाखा में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। निविदादाता को यू-केन रजिस्ट्रेशन की फोटो कॉपी अपलौड करना अनिवार्य है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट Jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

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CM YK A ND-NDE

SC takes cognisance of Chinmayanand row

Group of lawyers raised issue of missing student before apex court; case to come up for hearing today

Woman, mother allege police inaction in gang-rape case

Duo attempt immolation at District Collectorate in Unnao

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday took cognisance on its own over reports of a woman student going missing after levelling allegations of harassment against former Union Minister and BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand.

The issue, which was mentioned before the apex court on Wednesday by a group of lawyers urging it to take cognisance in the matter, would come up for hearing on Friday before a Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bopanna.

Harassment complaint

The Shahjahanpur police had on Tuesday lodged an FIR against Mr. Chinmayanand after the student went missing. Her father had filed a complaint with the police accusing Mr. Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her, a charge refuted by the BJP leader's lawyer who claimed it was a "conspiracy" to



BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand

Hostel room of missing U.P. woman sealed, police clueless

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the postgraduate student continued on the sixth day as her family awaited any concrete information about her.

The U.P. police claimed that the student was spotted at a Delhi hotel on Wednesday but left the place before officers could reach there.

On Thursday, Kotwali police station in-charge Pravesh Singh said the woman's hostel room in Shahjahanpur was sealed on Wednesday to avoid trespassing. Her mother said she had visited the hostel on August 24 but found her room locked.

ashram.

The group of lawyers, in a letter addressed to Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, had requested him to take suo motu action based on media reports that the student has been missing for

the past three days.

"Your lordships, we the undersigned members of the legal fraternity and practising lawyers of this court are extremely disturbed and concerned about the wellbeing of the girl concerned. We as a society cannot allow another 'Unnao case' to happen. This court has been interfering in letter petitions when it comes to protection of human rights," the letter read.

It urged the court to issue notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh as also the principal of the college, where the woman is studying, so that immediate action can be taken to trace her, and give protection to the woman and her family.

prevented them from harming themselves.

In a video of the incident, the woman can be seen jostling with a lady constable while other policemen try to stop her mother from pulling out unknown items from a bag apparently to immolate herself.

"It's been a month... they only say we are going to nab the culprits," said the woman's mother, adding that the police were only giving assurances.

She said the accused, two of whom were running free, were threatening the family.

A cousin of the woman said that they were informed about the rape late on July 19 by a lightman who was returning from work. She was raped in a forested area 2 km from the village, said the cousin.

Circle officer of Safipur Gaurav Kumar Tripathi said a case under Sections 376D (gang rape) of Indian Penal Code has already been registered at the local police station. Of the three persons accused in the case, one has been arrested and sent to jail, Mr. Tripathi said. A search is on to nab the other two accused, the officer added.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

Cataract surgeries: hospital officials booked

NHRC notice to M.P. govt.

CBI seeks sanction to prosecute three sitting Trinamool MPs

Lightning kills two inmates

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Indore West police have registered a case against the medical director and the superintendent of the Indore Eye Hospital on the charge of endangering the lives of those who suffered significant impairment of vision after undergoing cataract surgeries there recently.

Chief Medical and Health Officer of Indore district Pravin Jadia said, "An FIR has been registered against Sudhir Mahashabde, the medical director of the hos-

pital, and Suhas Bande, its superintendent."

The case was registered under Sections 336 [act endangering life or personal safety of others], 337 [causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others] and 338 [causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others] read with Section 34 [acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention] of the Indian Penal Code, said Guruprasad Parashar, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Indore West.

Licence revoked

The State government had on August 17 had revoked the licence of the private hospital after its patients, who underwent surgeries on August 8, suffered significant impairment of vision due to a postoperative infection.

Earlier, an investigation committee had found negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of health officials and the hospital's doctors.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has approached the office of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for sanction to prosecute three sitting Trinamool Congress MPs and one former parliamentarian in the Narada sting operation case, said the agency on Thursday.

A CBI official said the approval has been sought with respect to MPs Saugata Roy, Kakoli Ghosh and Prasun Banerjee, besides former MP Suvendu Adhikari.

Mr. Adhikari is currently the Transport Minister in the State government.

Mr. Roy, 73, is an MP from Dum Dum, while Mr. Ghosh, 59, represents the Barasat constituency.

Mr. Banerjee, 64, is an MP from Howrah.

The agency has been recording statements of witnesses and accused persons in the case, which was registered following a High Court directive in March 2017 to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations.

In all, 12 political leaders and an IPS officer were named. The case pertains to a sting operation alleging showing politicians and bureaucrats accepting money from a journalist posing as a representative of a Chennai-based company.

(With PTI inputs)

Two inmates were killed on Thursday after lightning struck them in Borstal jail in Ludhiana, the police said.


"The incident occurred when four inmates were praying at a temple on jail premises. Lightning struck, leaving two of them dead and the other two injured," ACP (East) Devinder Chaudhary said. The deceased have been identified as Lakhvir Singh (18) and Rishav Kumar (19).

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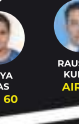
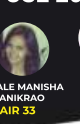
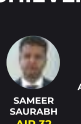
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Water meant for Marathwada not going to Gujarat: Fadnavis

Nar-Par-Tapi river linking project ensuring 52 tmcft for region gets Cabinet nod

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Stating that no water from the Konkan region intended for Marathwada was going to Gujarat, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said his government is committed to giving the arid region 52 thousand million cubic feet (TMCft) of water through the Nar-Par-Tapi river linking project.

“We are not giving even a single drop of water to Gujarat... our government is determined to save the water that drains from the Konkan region into the sea and bring it to Marathwada. Five rivers are to be linked for this project for which our Cabinet has already given its approval,” he told reporters during the course of the BJP’s Mahajanadesh Yatra in Jalna district.

The State Cabinet in July had given its nod to complete the Nar-Par-Tapi and the Damanganga-Pinjal river linking projects to mitigate the water woes of Marathwada and areas of Mumbai city. The projects have been hanging fire for years owing to technical disputes over water sharing with Gujarat.

The Nar-Par-Tapi linking project, which is a combination of a lift irrigation



Garnering support: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a rally as part of Mahajanadesh Yatra at Pathri in Parbhani district on Thursday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

scheme, tunnels and canals, will ensure 52 tmcft water for Marathwada and parts of north Maharashtra. Mr. Fadnavis said the injustice being suffered by Marathwada is that it has never received its rightful share of 102 tmcft despite dams and water projects in place as the water flows away in different directions and remains unutilised.

“To remedy this deficit, our government has made plans [in the form of the Marathwada water grid project]

to ensure that the region gets its rightful due [of 102 tmcft] in addition to extra water that will be brought through river linking projects,” the CM said.

Mr. Fadnavis said the State has taken Israel’s assistance to help solve the region’s water crisis. “We have received substantial inputs from them and I’m confident there will not be any water scarcity in any Marathwada village after the completion of the water grid project.”

On the Aurangabad Divisional Commissioner’s decision to recommend the State to dissuade farmers in Marathwada from planting sugar cane, Mr. Fadnavis said, “From what I gather, the recommendations to dissuade farmers from cultivating sugar cane are on the grounds that the crop guzzles water. All studies since 2007 have urged to reduce sugar cane cultivation in this region. But we have to give farmers an alternative.”

BJP has ‘Gujarat’s washing powder’ to clean opposition leaders, says Danve

Munde calls NCP’s yatra the ‘funeral procession’ of tyrant, anti-farmer State govt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

In a veiled reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah, Union Minister Rao-saheb Danve has said they have “Gujarat’s washing powder” which first cleans Congress and NCP leaders before they are inducted into the BJP.

He dubbed as “funeral procession” the NCP’s Shiv-swarajya Yatra, the Sharad Pawar-led party’s mass contact programme to counter Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis’s Mahajanadesh Yatra ahead of the Assembly polls.

“We have Gujarat’s washing powder which first cleans leaders of the Congress and NCP and then the BJP inducts them,” Mr. Danve said at a rally on Wednesday evening in Jalna district where Mr. Fadnavis was also present.

Hitting out at the NCP’s pre-poll yatra, Mr. Danve said, “(On one hand) there is Mr. Fadnavis’s Mahajanadesh Yatra where people are flocking in large numbers. On the other hand, the NCP’s rally is, in fact, a funeral procession.”

“People generally make a point and attend a funeral

procession but in case of the NCP’s rally, several senior leaders are skipping it. The NCP’s own people are turning their back on the party’s rally,” said the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Sarcastic remarks

Meanwhile, NCP leader Dhananjay Munde hit back at Mr. Danve. In remarks laced with sarcasm, Mr. Munde said the Union Minister was “right”, and that



the NCP’s yatra was indeed the “funeral procession” of the “tyrant, insensitive and anti-farmer” BJP-led Maharashtra government.

“But I correct your mis-

take. People are giving huge response to the Shiv-swarajya Yatra to pay homage to the authoritarian government.

@raosahebDanve,” he tweeted in Marathi.

Mr. Munde also put out a video clip on his Twitter handle to allege that the rally organised as part of Mahajanadesh Yatra received poor response in Mr. Danve’s home turf, Jalna, even as the BJP’s working president, J.P. Nadda, spoke.

NCP MLA meets Uddhav amid rumours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Amid speculations that he may quit the NCP, party MLA Avadhut Tatkare on Thursday met Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and said he wants to stay in mainstream politics.

Rumours have been doing the rounds that the MLA from Shrivardhan in Raigad district and his uncle and NCP MP Sunil Tatkare may join the Sena. Sunil Tatkare, the Lok Sabha member from Raigad, earlier denied the rumours.

However, his nephew, who met Mr. Thackeray at the latter’s residence in Bandra, said he cannot confirm anything, but asserted he wants to stay in mainstream politics. “I met Mr. Thackeray to remain in mainstream politics. I will announce my official decision in the next two days,” Avadhut Tatkare told reporters.

Asked if he would part ways with his uncle, he said, “I will take a decision after consultation with my party workers and close

aides. I need some time to make a statement on it. I cannot confirm anything but I want to stay in mainstream politics and as part of it, I met Mr. Thackeray.”

Several senior leaders from the NCP and Congress have recently joined the BJP and Sena in the State, where the Assembly polls are due in September-October.

Six-time legislator Dilip Sopal earlier this week resigned from the Sharad Pawar-led party and joined the Sena on Wednesday.

Suspension on Congress leader lifted

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The All India Congress Committee on Thursday revoked the suspension of former State minister and Congress leader from Nagpur, Satish Chaturvedi.

Mr. Chaturvedi was suspended two years ago by the then State Congress president, Ashok Chavan, over anti-party activities in Nagpur. He is the five-term MLA and was also the guardian minister of Nagpur.

Meanwhile, the screening committee of the Congress for the Assembly polls held a meeting in Delhi along with senior leaders. According to a leader who was present at the meeting, the party has decided to speed up the process to finalise candidates.

“A mega meeting of State Congress leaders, Central leaders, and members of the screening committee will be held on September 3 and 4 in Mumbai,” the leader said.

Drawing attention



Novel method: A PETA activist chooses a unique method to create awareness of water conservation outside Pune’s Fergusson College on Thursday. •JIGNESH MISTRY

No heavy vehicles on Mumbai-Goa highway during Ganapati festival



High demand: Eco-friendly clay idols from Mylapore in Chennai on display at Mumbai’s Matunga market on Thursday, ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi. •PRASHANT NAKWE

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

No heavy vehicles carrying goods or freight will be allowed on the Mumbai-Goa highway during the period of Ganapati festival to ease the congestion as a large number of people travel to their home towns.

The State government announced on Thursday that trucks or large trailers carrying bulky goods will not be permitted on the road. Only essential goods such as milk,

petrol, fruits and vegetables, and liquid oxygen for medical use will be allowed.

The ban on heavy vehicles will be in force in three phases spanning 10-day-long festivals.

The first phase will start at 8 p.m. on Friday and go on till noon on September 2, which is the first day of the festival.

The ban will also be in force from September 7 to September 8 and from September 12 to September 13.

On the other days – September 3 to September 6 and September 9 to September 11 – heavy vehicles will not be allowed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

“Given the number of people who go to their home towns during the festival, we have taken this decision to make their journey easy and safe. We will also run more State transport buses on the route to clear the extra rush,” State Transport Minister Diwakar Raote said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** 25 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5’7”, was wearing Blue Colour Shirt & Blue Jeans Pant, was found dead at Subway Near Ring Road Hanuman Mandir, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 18-A, dated 17.08.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

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P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
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General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age :** 27 years, **Height :** 5’6”, **Complexion :** Sallow, wearing grey colour shirt and red colour pant, was found dead on 23.08.2019 at flyover, near Hanuman Mandir, Jamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 36-A dated 23.08.2019 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

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MSRTC asks KSRTC to increase fares

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has asked its Karnataka counterpart to raise fares of its interstate Airavat buses that run from Bangalore to Mumbai and Pune.

“There is an agreement between the two States that the same fare will be applicable on routes of State transport buses. The fare will be decided by the State within its jurisdiction. We have asked it to comply with the agreement and revise the fares of a few of its services,”

Ranjeet Singh Deol, vice-chairman and managing director of MSRTC, said.

At present, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) charges ₹1,260 on its Mumbai-Bangalore route for its Airavat service, which has premium air-conditioned Volvo buses. On the same route, the MSRTC charges ₹1,874 for its Shivshahi service.

In a letter sent to the KSRTC, the MSRTC said the rate charged by them for its premium Airavat service is far lower than what the MSRTC charges for it mid-

scale service Shivshahi and is “a breach of the reciprocal agreement”. It also cited a disparity of fare on the Boriwali-Pune service of both State transport operators. The KSRTC charges ₹364 per seat on its Airavat service, while the MSRTC, which runs a Shivneri on the same route, charges ₹514.

According to the agreement between the two States, the fare charged by the corporations in the reciprocating States shall not be less than those charged by the operators of that State for similar services.

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		Name of work	Length				
1	Chamoli	Under State Sector Reconstruction & Improvement work of Jilasuli Motor road, length 4.00 KM (Km. 11.00 to 14.00) District Chamoli, Vidhan Shabha Bhadrinath	4.00km	15 month	Rs. 5000 + GST	5.32	Registered Category A and above for road work in State/ Govt. of India
1- The bid validity period shall be 120 days after the bid submission deadline date. 2- Bids shall be submitted online(e-tender) on the e-GPS portal http://www.uktenders.gov.in							
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1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Balance Earth work & lining for slip portion in Km. 36 of Isapur Right Bank Canal of upper Penganga	319.57	1.60	24 Months	Rs. 2000 +12% GST

1. Additional Details regarding e-tendering process are available on Govt. Web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

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Executive Engineer
Upper Penganga Project Division
Hadgaon



IN BRIEF
HC rejects Shivakumar's plea against summons
BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by Congress leader and ex-Minister D.K. Shivakumar challenging the summons issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case.

Modi to visit Karnataka on September 7
MYSURU
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Bengaluru on September 7. He would be appraised of the massive flood damage in the State, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said. Mr. Modi will visit the ISRO control room in Bengaluru to watch the landing of Chandrayaan-2 on the moon.

KPCC accepts Tharoor's stand

Congress MP had earned wrath of party colleagues for alleged 'Modi praise'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, at the centre of a controversy for stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be praised for doing the "right things," on Thursday said he was "relieved" that the party accepted his explanation.
Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mulla-pally Ramachandran is also learnt to have instructed party leaders to avoid airing their views in public over the controversy.
"Yes, that controversy is over. There is no need for any more discussion [on this]," said Leader of the Opposition in Kerala Assembly Ramesh Chennithala.
Mr. Tharoor said he was "grateful" for those who supported him and he would



Shashi Tharoor

not comment further on this episode.
"I am relieved that KPCC have accepted my reply & this unfortunate & unnecessary episode is over. I am grateful to all those who have stood by me but will be making no further comment on this matter," he tweeted.
Mr. Tharoor had remarked on the performance of the Modi government af-

ter his party colleagues Jai-ram Ramesh and Abhishek Singhvi had expressed similar sentiments.
MP thanks IUML
The three-time MP from Thiruvananthapuram thanked IUML leader and former Minister M.K. Muneer and Muslim Youth League president Sayyid Munavvar Ali Shihab Thangal for their support.
Mr. Muneer said Mr. Tharoor was not a Modi loyalist and could not be pushed towards the "fascist" camp. In a tweet, he said Mr. Tharoor had always taken a strong stand inside and outside Parliament against Mr. Modi and his stand had always been "loud and clear. No conspiracies can down him."
The former Union Minister had earned the wrath of some of his party colleagues

for his alleged "Modi praise" following which the KPCC had sought an explanation from him.
Mr. Ramachandran said the Modi government was a failure in all fields. While the country had been going through a crisis, justifying the Prime Minister was unfortunate, he said, citing the NSSO data on highest unemployment in 45 years.
On Wednesday, Mr. Tharoor, in his explanation, said he never justified Mr. Modi and, in fact, was a "strong critic" of the BJP government. He said he wanted the KPCC to examine his parliamentary debates and point out one other leader from the State who had made at least 10% of his efforts to study, research and oppose the Modi government on every Bill introduced.



Siddalinga Swami releasing the special book on the premises of the Siddaganga Math in Tumakuru, Karnataka, on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Book on Siddaganga Math released

Volume chronicles history and rich achievements of the Math

STAFF REPORTER
TUMAKURU

Seer and president of Siddaganga Math Shri Siddalinga Swami released the first copy of the book *Sri Siddaganga Math: Upholding Basaveshwara's Ideals* at the 'gadduge' of late Shivakumara Swami on the Math premises in Tumakuru on Thursday.
After releasing the book, which is part of the series on important shrines and religions from *The Hindu*, Siddalinga Swami said, "It is a big honour for us that *The Hindu*, one of the leading newspapers of India, has brought out a book as part of its series on temples and religious institutions."
He praised senior journalist and editor of the volume T.V. Sivanandan for his articles.
The Swamiji said, "I am happy that *The Hindu* is bringing out a series on temples and religious institutions, which help to impart spiritual knowledge to the present generation and the future generations."
Director of Siddaganga Institute of Technology M.N. Channabasappa recalled his association with late Shiva-

kumara Swami when he was a student at the Math.
Senior General Manager, Circulation department, *The Hindu*, Meher Yerramilli said, "We are fortunate to bring the book on Siddaganga math, which is providing *dasoha* (free food) to thousands of students and devotees... We wanted to release this book when Shivakumara Swami was alive as he had given permission to bring this book."

Rare pictures

The book includes rare pictures of Shivakumara Swami, his predecessors, the present Seer Siddalinga Swami and the Math.
The book also throws light on the Math's Sanskrit 'pathashala', which was established in 1941 and is open to all sections of society.
Apart from giving free food and shelter to the students, the Math also provides free education to several students irrespective of their castes and religion.
CEO of Siddaganga Institute of Technology Shivakumaraiah, former Minister Sogadu Shivanna and BJP leader M.B. Nandish were present at the function.

'Train 18 no less than Chandrayaan'

Architect of Vande Bharat Express seeks a working environment 'free from fear'

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The architect of Train 18 and Southern Railway's Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) Shubhbranshu has called for a working environment that is "free from fear, suspicion and inter-departmental conflicts" to deliver Vande Bharat Express trains to the nation as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
In a letter to Chairman of the Railway Board V.K. Yadav, the officer said while Mr. Modi in his Independence Day address urged the Indian Railways to roll out more Vande Bharat Express trains for the people, the third rake itself of the iconic train was nowhere in sight.
Mr. Shubhbranshu's letter

comes at a time when the making of Vande Bharat Express has come to a grinding halt at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai due to a variety of reasons, including allegations of one firm being favoured in the award of tenders.
Mr. Shubhbranshu had led the team of engineers that manufactured the first Train 18 in a record time of 18 months at a cost of ₹97 crore.
Rejects allegations
"I am duty-bound to bring facts to your notice as the ex-PCME of ICF, who actually manufactured the first rake as envisioned by Sudhanshu Mani, the then General Manager of ICF...there seems to be a suggestion that a particular Indian firm was unduly



Train 18 was manufactured in a record time of 18 months. • SANDEEP SAXENA

or quality, Mr. Shubhbranshu said the Vande Bharat Express had been running uninterrupted for eight months, a testimony to the robustness of specifications, safety and reliability aspects of the train.
"To make things worse, a Vigilance enquiry has been launched in this indisputably successful project that in no way ranks even a shade lower than the Chandrayaan or Brahmos. I am sure ISRO or DRDO have not launched vigilance enquiries in their proud achievements...we all know that it is not the outcome of the enquiry that kills the spirit of innovation, risk-taking and out-of-box thinking. It is the process of enquiry that does it in ample measure," the letter said.
Reiterating that no compromise was made on safety

favoured in the tenders. This is far from the truth. The tender which the Indian firm got for the electricals for the first two rakes was awarded on the lowest tender basis," he said.
Reiterating that no compromise was made on safety

'No regrets on Sabarimala stance'

We went only by SC order: Kerala CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said the State government had no regrets over its handling of the Sabarimala issue or its "pro-women stance".
Addressing the media here on Thursday, Mr. Vijayan said the government had no choice but to uphold the Supreme Court order that opened the temple to women of all age groups. If the Supreme Court rescinded the law, the State would comply with the decision. It had no voice in the matter, he said.
'BJP betrayal'
In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which sought to capitalise on the emotive issue, had betrayed its supporters, he said. After

the BJP came to power at the Centre, the party had dismissed the possibility of a new law to circumvent the Supreme Court decision on the grounds that it would be unconstitutional.
The Left Democratic Front government had no regrets for having supported women who turned out in large numbers to form a human wall in support of gender equality and Renaissance values, Mr. Vijayan added.
The government would continue to support social forces that stood to protect the social dividends and secular values of the 19th century Renaissance Movement, he said.
Mr. Vijayan said spiritual leaders headed the Renaissance Movement in Kerala and not atheists.

Karnataka has cleared T.N. quota of water: Yediyurappa



Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa offers 'bagina', a customary thanksgiving gesture, to the Krishnaraja Sagar dam near Srirangapatna in Mandya district on Thursday, after it reached the full reservoir level. Mandya MP Sumalatha is at left. • PTI

'Surplus waters discharged from all four Cauvery basin reservoirs'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANDYA

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Thursday said the State had cleared the quota of water to be shared with Tamil Nadu in the last one month by discharging the Cauvery and Kabini waters.
He was speaking after offering 'bagina' to the Cauvery at the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), near Srirangapatna, which has attained the full-reservoir level.
The storage in all the four Cauvery basin reservoirs in Karnataka was "very poor". Nevertheless, all the four reservoirs attained their maximum storage capacity owing to the blessings of the rain god, he said. The surplus waters were discharged and hence the neighbouring State received its quota in the recent days, he added.

The Chief Minister said the government was committed to developing the KRS on a par with international standards to improve the tourism potential of the region.
He said the government had initiated measures to revive the State-owned Mysore Sugar Company Ltd. (Mysugar) and the cooperative sugar factory Pandavapura Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane in Mandya district.
MPs Sumalatha and Pratap Simha and Revenue Minister R. Ashok were among those present.
Mr. Yediyurappa lost his cool when some journalists repeatedly asked him about the possibilities of mid-term elections to the Assembly. "Go ask Siddaramaiah [the former Chief Minister] if he has spoken about the possibilities of mid-term elections," he said.

As losses touch ₹41 crore, Golden Chariot chugs to a halt

Services of south India's only luxury train suspended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has temporarily suspended operation of south India's only luxury train, the Golden Chariot, as losses in running the special train rose to ₹41 crore.
Tourism and Kannada and Culture Minister C.T. Ravi on Thursday held a review meeting with officials of both departments and said the Golden Chariot – which operated between various tourist spots in the State – would not run for now since it had incurred financial loss. In the past, the Golden Chariot used to run only during October to March.
However, Jungle Lodges



The interiors of the Golden Chariot. • FILE PHOTO

and Resorts and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) continue to make profits, the Minister said.
A task force had been set up under Infosys Founda-

tion chairperson Sudha Murty and based on its report, tourist spots would be developed, Mr. Ravi said. The State had identified 319 tourist spots and 40 major tourist circuits.

Oral cancer stalks the poor in rural Kuppam

High rates reported among agricultural labourers addicted to chewing tobacco and gutkha

K. UMASHANKER
CHITTOOR

The largely rural district of Kuppam on the junction of three major southern States – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu – has recorded an alarming increase in cases of oral cancer over the last decade. The intensity of the disease has gone up in recent months. The frequency of oral cancers is higher among women in the Kuppam belt.
The dependence of a large proportion of the population on manual labour for livelihood is seen as a major factor contributing to the rising rates of oral cancer. The region of Kuppam, Santhipuram, Gudupalle and Ramakuppam mandals is home to a large number of agricultural labourers. In addition, a

huge number of youth from the district depend on odd jobs in Bengaluru and Chennai – both major cities within a day's commute.
Given the hard manual labour, this vast group is forced to undertake, addition to tobacco products, particularly the chewing variety is common.
Families afflicted
Three members of a six-member family – a couple and their son – at Mallanur were all detected with oral cancer in a span of just three years. The head of the family, Senthil, said he had acquired the habit of chewing tobacco from his father.
"Since 2012, I got addicted to gutkha, consuming close to 10 packets a day. I was diagnosed with oral cancer



Help is at hand: Health officials organising a cancer screening and awareness camp at Kuppam in Chittoor district of A.P.

in a Bengaluru hospital in 2017. Later, I recovered. Unfortunately, I continued the habit. Now, I am hit by the malignant disease on the other cheek," he said.
Sugunamma, a worker at the flower gardens in Kuppam, said surgery for cancer caused by chewing tobacco

had left her disfigured. "I quit the habit. But the cancer has done its damage, and I am yet to recover fully. My daughter inherited this vile habit from me. But after counselling, she has given it up for good," she said.
The incidence of oral cancer is also found to be high

among the youth from Kuppam. Working away from home in hard conditions, many take to chewing tobacco and smoking.
Medical camps
Alarmed by the high rates of cancers, the district medical authorities have been holding medical and awareness camps in recent months.
District Medical and Health Officer B. Ramagiddaiah told *The Hindu* that the number of victims in the rural pockets was very disquieting. In addition to oral cancer, cases of lung, throat and intestinal cancers were also detected.
"In recent months, we had arranged surgeries for about a dozen cases from Kuppam area," the DMHO said.



IN BRIEF

Tamil Nadu plans underwater excavations
Chennai
In a bid to unravel the trade links of the ancient Tamils, the Archaeology Department is planning to carry out underwater excavations in the port cities and towns that existed during the Sangam and medieval periods.

14 plots attached in irregular allotment case
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate has attached 14 Panchkula industrial plots worth ₹30.34 crore in connection with alleged irregular allotments in 2011-12 when former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda also served as the Haryana Urban Development Authority Chairman.

Gang-rape victim dies in Aurangabad hospital
MUMBAI
A 19-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped by four men in Mumbai in July died at a government hospital in Aurangabad in central Maharashtra, police said on Thursday. The woman died on Wednesday night.

Alliance Air, AI Express ban single-use plastics
NEW DELHI
Air India subsidiaries Alliance Air and Air India Express have stopped usage of single use plastics from Thursday, including the use of 200 ml water bottles. Plastic cutlery and tea cups served on-board will also be replaced with eco-friendly options.

Doctors advise against giving mercury to infants
THANJAVUR
Doctors at the Rajah Mirasdar Government Hospital here have cautioned people against administering mercury to infants under the misconception that it would cure a swollen belly in newborns. The practice is believed to be prevalent in the rural areas in Tamil Nadu.

₹47,436 crore released for afforestation

The funds have been collected as compensation from industry for razing forest land for business

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Union Environment Ministry on Thursday transferred ₹47,436 crore to 27 States for afforestation. These are long-pending dues part of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), a ₹54,000 crore tranche that has been collected for nearly a decade as environmental compensation from industry, which has razed forest land for its business plans.

Economic value
The amount to be paid by industry depends on the economic value of the goods and services that the razed forest would have provided. These include timber, bamboo, firewood, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, water recharge, and seed dispersal. Industrialists pay this

money and this is eventually transferred to the States concerned to carry out afforestation.
Only a fraction of this corpus had actually been disbursed to States, due to the lack of a legal framework and instances of States using it for non-forestry purposes.

Independent authority
The CAF Act 2016, which came into being more than a decade since it was devised, established an independent authority – the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority – to execute the fund.
However, it was not until last August that the rules governing the management of the fund were finalised. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, while presenting cheques to senior



Seed capital: A forest employee making seed balls at the Ahmaddpur Forest Nursery in Bhopal.

officials in State forest administration, said the Centre would use geographic tagging technology to keep a tab on whether States were using their allotted funds appropriately.

in the forest....it cannot be used for payment of salary, travelling allowances, making buildings and buying of office equipment for forest officers. We will use electronic repositories, geographical tagging for tracking expenses," he added.

Odisha top recipient
Odisha, the top recipient of funds, got nearly ₹6,000 crore followed by Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh with ₹5,791 crore and ₹5,196 crore respectively.
Kerala got the least with ₹81.59 crore.

Activists and environmentalists have raised concerns that the funds are used by the State to ride roughshod over tribal rights and unscientific afforestation methods were often implemented to make good razed forests.

'Fit India Movement' kicked off on National Sports Day

Make fitness a lifestyle, says PM



Towards fitness: Narendra Modi during the launch of 'Fit India Movement'. Actor Shilpa Shetty was also present.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Launching the 'Fit India Movement,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said healthy individuals, families and society would be the ones to make 'new India,' "fit India" and urged people to make fitness their lifestyle.
Marking the National Sports Day on the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, Mr. Modi launched the "people's movement" for promoting fitness, a government statement said.
The PM also congratulated sportspersons who had

won medals for the country. "Their medals are not only the result of their hard work but reflection of a new zeal and new confidence of a new India," Mr. Modi said.
"Success is related to fitness, success stories of all of our icons from any field of life have a common thread – most of them are fit, have a

focus on fitness and are fond of fitness," the PM said.
Technology has "robbed us of our daily fitness routines and today we are unaware of our traditional practices and lifestyle which could keep us fit," he added. He also said lifestyle changes can prevent diseases like diabetes and hypertension.

GI tag for T.N.'s Dindigul lock, Kandangi saree

Their popularity has been on decline

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
A. SHRIKUMAR
CHENNAI/MADURAI

Two iconic, but dying products from Tamil Nadu – the Dindigul lock and the Kandangi saree – were given the Geographical Indication tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai on Thursday. While the application for the lock was made by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, the Amarar Rajeev Gandhi Handloom Weavers Co-operative Production and Sales Society Limited filed the application for the Kandangi Saree.

"Dindigul lock and Kandangi saree were registered today," Chinnaraja G. Naidu,

Deputy Registrar of Geographical Indications, said on Thursday. He added that both these products were losing their sheen in the market, and the GI tag would help them get some recognition.

While the market is flooded with sarees that are woven in other parts of the State and look like the Kandangi saree, the original saree is made manually made using a winding machine, loom, shuttle and bobbin. The famous Dindigul locks are known throughout the world for their superior quality and durability, but the industry has been slowly dying due to competition from Aligarh and Rajapalayam, and lack of proper marketing.

Possession of books not crime, accepts HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Thursday accepted the submission made by the advocate appearing for activist Vernon Gonsalves, accused in the Elgar Parishad-Bhima Koregaon case, "that mere possession of books does not implicate a person".
A day after Justice S.V. Kotwal told senior advocate Mihir Desai to explain why *Rajya Daman Virodhi* released by the Kabir Kala Manch, and *War and Peace* in *Jangalmahal: People, State and Maoists* was found at his residence, Mr. Desai said on Thursday, "None of the books are banned under Section 95 [power to declare certain publications forfeited and to

issue search warrants for the same] of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Most of them are available on [online retailer] Amazon."
'No ban'
He went on to list the 61-year-old Mr. Gonsalves' credentials as a writer and columnist who has written about human rights, left wing rights and many other topics where he has been critical of the government.
On behalf of his client, Mr. Desai said, "Merely some books or literature found do not implicate me because there is no link with any activities."
He added, "Mere possession of books does not make him part of a banned organisation."

ED records Faisal Patel's statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday recorded Congress leader Ahmed Patel's son Faisal Patel's statement in the Sterling Biotech Limited case.
The agency examined Mr. Faisal Patel twice last week under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The probe is based on two FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Sterling Biotech and others in October 2017, one pertaining to the alleged routing of funds belonging to unknown officials of the Income Tax Department and the other to the default of ₹8,100 crore in bank loan.

Kharif farm profits to grow despite fall in production

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Farmers' profits from field crops are likely to grow 11% to 13% during this kharif or summer crop season, according to a projection by

CRISIL Research. Although food grain production is likely to fall, hit by either erratic rainfall or pests, higher demand and mandi prices will help farmers.
However, the projected

profit growth rate is still lower than last year's rate of 16%, CRISIL economists said. Kharif output is also likely to decline 3% to 5% this year, with sowing acreage and yields both hit by the uneven

distribution of rainfall.

"The overall quantum of rainfall is normal, but there was a 36% deficiency in June, which affected paddy acreage mostly in eastern India, and then excess rainfall

affecting some crops in August," said CRISIL chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi, adding that abundant rains in August have improved the chances of a healthy rabi season.

ED wants to sell Nirav Modi's paintings, cars

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI
The Enforcement Directorate moved a plea before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court on Thursday to sell paintings worth ₹57.72 crore, eight cars and other articles seized from absconding diamond-taire Nirav Modi earlier this year.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Department of Currency Management, Mumbai
मुद्रा प्रबंध विभाग, मुंबई
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest
Reserve Bank of India invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanment of qualified and capable Transport Contractors for supply of desired specifications to RBI Issue Offices for transportation of banknotes on as and when required basis (Rate Contract).
The transport contractors may visit 'Tenders' section on RBI Website (www.rbi.org.in) for more details and apply as stated therein. The last date of application of EOI is October 11, 2019, 03:30 PM.
Any addition/deletion/modification and correspondence related to the EOI will be posted on the Bank's website.
Chief General Manager-in-Charge
रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित करने हेतु सूचना
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बैंकनोटों के परिवहन हेतु योग्य विशेषज्ञों को बाले बंद वाहनों की आपूर्ति के लिए जब और जहां आवश्यक हो के आधार पर (दर अनुबंध) योग्य और शक्ति परिसहन केन्द्रों को सूची में सम्मिलित करने हेतु रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ईओआई) आमंत्रित करता है।
अधिक जानकारी के लिए परिवहन केन्द्र आरबीआई की वेबसाइट (www.rbi.org.in) पर "निविदाएं" खंड में देख सकते हैं तथा उसमें बताए अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते हैं। ईओआई के आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 11 अक्टूबर, 2019, दोपहर 03:30 बजे है।
ईओआई से संबंधित किसी भी अतिरिक्त/ विलोपन/ संशोधन और पत्राचार को बैंक की वेबसाइट पर पोस्ट किया जाएगा।
प्रभारी मुख्य महाप्रबंधक

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
E-Procurement Notice, Online-RWSENG-12 of 2019-20, Letter No.1788/Dtd.26.08.2019
292-Q: E-mail address :- serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
1. Type of the Work : Bridge Works (BSY)
2. Total No. of Works : 01 No. of Bridges
3. Estimated cost : Rs.258.58 Lakh
4. Class of Contractor : 'B' Class & 'A' Class
5. Period of completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
6. Cost of tender paper : The Bidder shall transfer online the cost of bid document for Rs.10,000/- towards cost of Bid through a process as mentioned under DTGN.
7. EMD Required : The Bidder shall transfer online the Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTGN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to transfer online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. of Odisha.
8. APS : The successful bidder who has quoted less bid price / rate than the estimated cost put to tender shall have to furnish exact amount of differential cost i.e. estimated cost put to tender minus quoted amount as Additional Performance Security (APS) in the shape of DD / TDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer of concerned Division within 7 days from date of intimation otherwise the bid shall be cancelled & security deposit shall be forfeited. Further, proceeding of blacklisting shall be initiated against the bidder.
9. GST : Rate quoted by the Contractor shall be excluding GST. The GST as applicable for the work contract shall be payable to the contractor on each bill amount on production of tax invoice. The prevailing rate of GST on the gross amount of bill will be deducted from the contractor bill as tax deduction at source (TDS) as per rule.
10. Other details:
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender On-line for bidding Last date & Time of Seeking Tender Technical Bid Opening Financial Bid Opening
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh RWSENG-12 of 2019-20 04.09.2019 11.00 A.M. 20.09.2019 3.00 P.M. 19.09.2019 3.00 P.M. 23.09.2019 11.00 A.M. 26.09.2019 11.00 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorisssa.gov.in
N.B: Corrigendum if any may be seen in this website. www.tendersorisssa.gov.in
Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
25133/11/0015/1920 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
VIDYUTH SOUDHA, VIJAYAWADA-520004.
AMENDMENT NOTIFICATION
With reference to the filling up of posts of Directors in APTRANSCO notified earlier vide Addl.Secy./DS(L,IR,R,E&P)/AS(E&P)/PO(Estt.)/J/543/2019, dt.06-07-2019, amendment is hereby issued that age of applicant mentioned at Sl.No. 3 of notification may be read as 62 years instead of 60 years of age as per G.O. Ms.No.27, Energy (OPA3) Department, dt.27-08-2019. All the eligible and interested candidates may file their application on or before 19.09.2019. They are requested to visit APTRANSCO website www.aptransco.gov.in for further details.
Place: Vijayawada Sd/-
Date: 29-08-2019 RO.No: 14/19 CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notice for the supply of stores No.13/2019 dt. 27/08/2019
Southern Railway has implemented an e-system. All advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer/postal offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in--SR--COS
ST. E-Tender Description Tender Closing date & time
No. No.
1 82/19/6239/ EOT PROVISION OF SUPPLY OF 20 MM THICK ECO-FRIENDLY/CRIBS, TEAM CRIB (ACID RESISTANT) 20.09.2019 @ 14.30 Hrs
Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders
Important Notice to Vendors: e-procurement is in the link www.ireps.gov.in
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of The Superintending Engineer (TW)
Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Jaipur-302005, Tele & Fax No. : 0141-2201022 (Reg. Office: Vidhut Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005)
SHORT TERME - TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders to carry out the work of construction of 33/11 KV GIS Sub-Station under system strengthening works for Jaipur City (Jaipur City Circle) & Alwar City (Alwar Circle) of Jaipur Discom, Rajasthan under integrated power development scheme (IPDS) under TN-500 & TN-501. Participating bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in from 30.08.2019 at 03.00 PM & onwards. Last Date / Time for receipt of online bids through e-procurement portal is 11.09.2019 upto 05.00 PM. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notification & Specification please visit website http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in, http://www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in & http://energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/vivnl
(UBN : VVN1920WLOB00236 for TN-500 & UBN : VVN1920WLOB00237 for TN-501)
Raj. Samwadi/C2019-20/2256 JPR 2495 (2019) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: 10-152/1, Ashoknagar, Bandra Road, Vijayawada-520007.
Tender No: PDS 135/Sugar Tender/Oct to Dec-19 Dated: 28.08.2019
TENDER NOTICE
EMPANMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY OF 22717.977 MTS. OF ISS GRADE S-30/S-31 CANE SUGAR IN 1/2 Kg PACKET FORM WITH SECONDARY PACKING IN 50 KG PP BAGS UNDER THE SUPPLY OF SUGAR FOR THE MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO DECEMBER 2019 THROUGH NCDEx & MARKETS LTD
All interested Sugar Manufacturers/Traders in Andhra Pradesh are invited for registration as suppliers eligible to participate in the e reverse auction to be conducted by NCDEx e Auction platform on behalf of APSCSC Ltd for supply of sugar to the MLSPs of (13) Districts in Andhra Pradesh State.
For Registration, interested Sugar manufacturers may visit www.apscsc.gov.in www.apscsc.ap.gov.in & www.neml.in for application form and detailed terms & conditions. Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to 5.00pm of 03-09-2019. The duly filled in application form should be submitted to: Customer Service Group, NCDEx e-Markets Limited, Akruti Corporate Park, 1st Floor, Near GE Garden, LBS Marg, Kanjurmarg (West), Mumbai-400078 Tel:9642332994 / 8309214283 or 022-46473153/54. Email: askus@neml.in
The tentative date of online e-auction through NCDEx e Markets Ltd platform would be 04-09-2019 at 10.00 am onwards for 22717.977 Mts. of Sugar in 1/2 Kg packet form with secondary packing in 50 Kg PP bags. Delivery should be completed within 10 working days at all MLSPs of (13) districts in AP State. Auction will be held District wise. The details are available in the RFP on the website www.apscsc.gov.in / www.apscsc.ap.gov.in
Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY
TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gujarat Region and Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha and Assam & Meghalaya.
CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN
Agartala..... 8.....35.0.....27.0 Kozhikode..... 16.0.....30.0.....24.0
Ahmedabad..... 0.5.....33.0.....26.0 Kurnool..... 34.0.....26.0
Aizawl..... 29.0.....20.0 Lucknow..... 35.0.....26.0
Allahabad..... 7.1.....35.0.....27.0 Madurai..... 40.0.....27.0
Bengaluru..... 29.0.....21.0 Mangaluru..... 56.2.....29.0.....23.0
Bhopal..... 29.0.....23.0 Mumbai..... 2.7.....32.0.....25.0
Bhubaneswar..... 0.2.....33.0.....25.0 Mysuru..... 29.0.....20.0
Chandigarh..... 35.0.....29.0 New Delhi..... 38.0.....29.0
Chennai..... 11.4.....36.0.....27.0 Patna..... 35.0.....29.0
Coimbatore..... 33.0.....23.0 Port Blair..... 9.1.....27.0.....25.0
Dehradun..... 0.6.....32.0.....25.0 Puducherry..... 37.0.....25.0
Gangtok..... 8.2.....24.0.....18.0 Pune..... 32.0.....21.0
Goa..... 26.4.....30.0.....24.0 Raipur..... 0.4.....30.0.....25.0
Guwahati..... 1.5.....37.0.....27.0 Ranchi..... 13.4.....32.0.....25.0
Hubballi..... 27.0.....22.0 Shillong..... 10.0.....30.0.....18.0
Hyderabad..... 33.0.....25.0 Shimla..... 26.0.....17.0
Imphal..... 4.2.....32.0.....22.0 Srinagar..... 37.0.....25.0
Jaipur..... 3.8.....34.0.....26.0 Thiruvananthapuram..... 12.1.....31.0.....25.0
Kochi..... 20.0.....31.0.....24.0 Tiruchir..... 39.0.....27.0
Kohima..... 5.4.....32.0.....20.0 Vijayawada..... 36.0.....26.0
Kolkata..... 12.6.....33.0.....27.0 Visakhapatnam..... 32.0.....28.0
(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday
CITIES SO2 NOx CO PM2.5 PM10 AQI CODE
Ahmedabad..... 71 64 546382 In observation made at 4.00 a.m., Gullbarga
Bengaluru..... 7 18 3862 Karnataka recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 487 indicating severe level of pollution. In contrast,
Chennai..... 17 2853 Kolkata, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 34
Delhi..... 6 5076225
Hyderabad..... 32 31 143576
Kolkata..... 2 1661415
Lucknow..... 3 21 20041
Mumbai..... 18 14 1102051
Pune..... 748674242
Visakhapatnam..... 11111
Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUTH SOUDHA, VIJAYAWADA
NOTIFICATION
In the Notification No.G1/CGM (ADM, IS & ERP)/2019 dated 03.07.2019, apgcenco has invited the applications for left post of Director (Finance & Commercial) and Director (Hydel). Now the last date for submission of application is extended up to 15.09.2019, 05.00 P.M. The age limit of the applicants is enhanced from 60 years to 62 years as amended vide G.O.O.No.139/CGM (ADM, IS&ERP)/2019, Dt.28.08.2019. The enhanced age limit of 62 years is applicable as on 28.08.2019. For further details please visit www.apgcenco.gov.in website. Sd/- Chief General Manager (Adm, IS & ERP)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Name of work: Providing Comprehensive Water Supply scheme to Holenarasipura town.
Description of work: Part-A: Providing improvements to jack well, Providing and laying MS Raw water rising main from Jack well to WTP, Construction of MBR (GLSR) of 50 LL, Providing and laying MS and DI-K-7 feeder mains from MBR to different OHT's, Providing and laying of Distribution Network, Providing W/S house connections, Construction of compound wall, Staff quarters near WTP, Approach Road formation, Railway & Highway crossing by Trenchless Technology. (Item rate). Part-B: Supply, erection and commissioning of 2 Nos. of 180 HP/suitable HP Deep well Turbine pumps at Jack well (Item rate). Part -C: Construction of 8.5 ML (20 Hrs.) Water Treatment Plant including O & M for a period of 1 year. (Lumpsum).
Under Comprehensive WSS to Holenarasipura Town.
Tender Details:
Sl. No. Details Description
1 Tender Number E-procurement portal tender No. KUWSDB/2019-20/WS/ WORK_INDENT 2526
2 Approximate Amount put to tender Rs. 3703.09 Lakhs
3 Time for completion of work 24 months (including monsoon)
4 Tender processing fee As per e-procurement portal
5 Earnest Money Deposit @ 1% Rs. 37.04 Lakhs
6 Date and time for commencement of downloading of tender document 30.08.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
7 Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 16.09.2019 upto 17.00 Hrs.
8 Pre-Bid Meeting 17.09.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
9 Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders 30.09.2019 upto 17.30 Hrs.
10 Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid 03.10.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
11 Date and Time of opening of Financial Bid 09.10.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
For further details, the office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru, may please be contact or website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-procurement helpdesk: 080-22371090 / 22373788, e-mail: hphepdesk.bl@intarvo.com
Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Mysore Zone. KUWS & D BOARD, MYSURU.
KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
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Law and opinion

The apex court should decide on Kashmir without being swayed by popular mood

The Supreme Court’s decision to form a five-member Constitution Bench to examine the validity of the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir puts an end to apprehensions that its response to the Centre’s legal measures since August 5 will only be one of quiet acquiescence. The court appeared reluctant to intervene in the immediate aftermath of the decisions when the restrictions imposed on political activity, communications and movement of the people were challenged. Instead, it chose to give enough time to the Centre to stabilise the situation. It seemed to afford wide latitude to the executive to decide the extent to which fundamental rights, including the freedom of the media, would be restricted in the name of achieving greater integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India and preparing for its development. In some habeas corpus matters, the court is yet to examine the legality of the detention of the persons concerned. True relief in such cases lies in ascertaining the whereabouts of a detenu and determining the lawfulness of the detention, but in a couple of matters, the court has only “allowed” the petitioners to travel to Kashmir and meet the detenues. Lawyers and activists have begun drawing parallels with the court’s infamous approbation of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during the Emergency in the *ADM Jabalpur* case.

The petitions before the court cite many grounds for challenging the President’s August 5 Order, by which the Order of 1954, which set out the constitutional provisions applicable to J&K, was superseded. A substantial question is on the validity of the substitution of the concurrence of the Governor for that of the government while under President’s Rule; in effect, the Centre is taking its own consent to alter the status of the State. The replacement of the term ‘Constituent Assembly’ (of J&K) found in Article 370 with the term ‘Legislative Assembly’ is also under challenge. Another question that looms large is whether a federal unit can be downgraded from the status of a State to that of a Union Territory, a move for which there is no precedent. The constitutional morality of the rest of the country deciding the destiny of a State without the consent or participation of its citizens is also a serious issue the court cannot ignore. It does appear that there is widespread popular support for the government’s decision to declare Article 370 inoperative and to divide the State into two Union Territories. Yet, the court is duty-bound to examine the legality of the measures taken by the President and Parliament on August 5 and 6. The challenge before the court is to give a reasoned verdict on these questions of constitutional importance, with far-reaching implications for democracy and federalism, without being swayed by the popular mood in J&K or the rest of India.

Tinkering for optics

The latest FDI rule changes may not be enough to draw a rush of investments

On the face of it, the Centre’s announcement on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms on Wednesday appears to be one more push to make India a more attractive destination to overseas investors, especially those keen on entering the market for the long haul. From extending the available 100% FDI under the automatic route in the coal mining sector (till now permitted only for captive consumption) to include those companies seeking to commercially sell the commodity, to distinctly including contract manufacturing under the automatic 100% route and easing local sourcing norms for overseas investors in the Single Brand Retail Trading (SBRT) business, the changes in investment guidelines approved by the Cabinet have been touted as “FDI policy reform”. The government, clearly concerned by the economic slowdown and persistently weak investment activity, has sought to provide a policy fillip to attract more foreign capital into sectors that it sees as having a multiplier effect particularly in terms of job creation. One must also consider the pressing contexts. Earlier this month, the RBI pointed out that net FDI flows had moderated to \$6.8 billion over the first two months of the current fiscal year, from \$7.9 billion in April-May 2018. And with Prime Minister Narendra Modi having set a goal of ensuring India becomes a \$5 trillion economy within the next five years, the overall consumptive capacity needs to be raised manifold to undergird demand growth. To that end, the act of widening reforms in coal mining, manufacturing and retail is completely understandable.

A closer examination, however, raises several concerns about the ultimate attractiveness of these changes. For instance, the tweaks to investment norms on coal appear at first flush to be a win-win for both the economy at large and the coal industry, the environmental costs of focusing on one of the most polluting fossil fuels notwithstanding. This is predicated on the prospect of seeing an influx of both capital and modern technology into mining and processing, as well as raising domestic supply of the key raw material for power, steel and cement production thereby cutting costly and burgeoning imports. But for foreign mining companies to make a beeline to pitheads, several related regulatory and market challenges will have to be addressed post-haste. Large miners will need economies of scale and so require access to large contiguous fields with minimal bureaucratic constraints on operations. While domestic thermal power plants have had to rely on increased imports in recent times, many of the electricity producers themselves are in financial stress. How much additional investments may actually accrue is not clear.

On dilution, bifurcation and ‘special status’

J&K’s perceived loss and New Delhi’s real gains over the Centre’s Article 370 decision need to be objectively assessed



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

The jubilation in parts of the country following the supposed abrogation of Article 370 was in contrast to the gloom in the Kashmir Valley. It was ignored by both sides that New Delhi did not make any substantial gain in terms of powers; neither did Srinagar suffer any major loss. Later, in what could be construed as a setback to the Centre, the Supreme Court referred all the petitions on Article 370 to a Constitution Bench, which will hear the matter in the first week of October.

Amidst these developments, some points require deeper scrutiny. First, the apex court could possibly strike down as ‘unconstitutional’ the Centre’s move to amend Article 370 by invoking the very same article. Second, the bifurcation of a State which is under President’s rule into two Union Territories is possibly against federalism. And third, Article 370, as it stood on August 4, was a special power available not to Kashmir, but to the Centre.

First, Article 370 has not been abrogated. It still very much remains part of the Constitution. Instead, the government, in an innovative and constitutionally suspect manner, invoked the Article to amend Article 367. On August 5, the President inserted a new clause to say that the ‘Constituent Assembly’ of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) shall mean ‘Legislative Assembly’ of the State, and ‘State government’ shall mean ‘Governor acting on the advice of Council of Ministers’. With this interpretation, Article 370 presented an entirely different picture. Since the erstwhile State was already under

President’s rule, the Parliament, by exercising ‘powers’ of the Legislative Assembly, gave its concurrence to the aggressive surgery of Article 370 that has killed the spirit as well as the text of the provision.

Bona-fide exercise of power? True, during President’s rule, Parliament can certainly exercise ‘powers’ of the State Assembly; but whether the aforesaid ‘concurrence’ can be termed as a legitimate and bona-fide exercise of power is a moot question for various reasons.

One, a Legislative Assembly that was in itself a creation of the Constituent Assembly cannot take the place of the latter. Two, the August 5 order defined the ‘State government’ to mean ‘Governor acting on the advice of Council of Ministers’. And since there was no Council of Ministers, the validity of the Governor’s concurrence mentioned in the presidential order was questionable.

Finally, Article 370(1)(d), which on August 5 was used for the purpose of diluting the Article itself, was meant to be deployed to apply ‘other provisions of Constitution’ to Jammu and Kashmir, not to modify or repeal Article 370 itself. The expression ‘other provisions’ here means provisions other than ‘Article 1’, ‘Article 238’ (now repealed) and ‘Article 370’.

Four points are to be kept in mind here. First, one constitutional provision cannot be used to nullify another. Second, an interpretation clause is to be used only when there is ambiguity in the Constitution. Here, the ‘Constituent Assembly’ Article 370 talked about was clearly identifiable – it first met on October 31, 1951 and was dissolved on January 26, 1957, and hence there was no ambiguity. Third, even when there are two contradictory provisions, the ‘doctrine of harmonious construction’ is to be invoked so that both the



“The constitutional validity of J&K’s bifurcation into two Union Territories is doubtful.” Residents in Srinagar earlier this month. • REUTERS

provisions are given effect to. Fourth, like Parliament, President too cannot alter the federal character of the Constitution, which has been held to be part of its basic structure. The Constitution prohibits colourable exercise of power – what you cannot do directly, you cannot do even indirectly.

Blow to federalism

Next, the constitutional validity of Jammu and Kashmir’s bifurcation into two Union Territories is also doubtful. Article 3, which deals with Parliament’s powers to alter boundaries of a State or bifurcate it, required the President to obtain the ‘concurrence’ of the J&K State Assembly before Parliament took up such a Bill. It has now come to light that while imposing President’s rule in J&K on December 19, 2018, the proviso on the reference to Assembly was suspended. This not only shows that the bifurcation was planned by the Centre in 2018 itself but also gives a clear indication of its mala-fide intention of doing something indirectly.

A mala-fide presidential action under Article 356 can be struck down. If the apex court upholds the Centre’s suspension of Article 3, it will be the end of Indian federalism as States will become a plaything in the Centre’s hands. It needs to be recalled here that prior to the Reorganisation Act of 1956, States were given the opportunity to express their views. Andhra Pradesh Assembly too was given this opportunity in 2014 prior to the creation of Telangana. Since the J&K Assembly stood dissolved and there had been no election announced, it was denied its right to express its view.

When a State is under President’s rule, Parliament can act as nothing more than a ‘night watchman’. It certainly cannot pass a resolution to bifurcate the State.

No major departure

Let us now objectively assess New Delhi’s gains in sounding the death knell for Article 370. Since almost the entire Constitution of India had been already applicable to

J&K, constitutionally speaking, heavens have not fallen for Srinagar. Entry 76 of the Union List, which deals with audit, was extended to J&K in 1958. The Election Commission of India was given powers to conduct elections from 1959 by the First Amendment to the J&K Constitution. A total of 94 out of the 97 items in the Union List had already been made applicable to J&K when the Centre made its move and hence Parliament had all the powers.

Out of the 395 Articles in the Indian Constitution, 260 Articles had already been extended to J&K through successive Presidential Orders. As regards the rest of the Articles, J&K Constitution had identical provisions. Moreover, more than 250 Central laws had already been extended and most of J&K’s State laws were identical to Central laws.

In reality, the ‘special status’ Article 370 conferred was not to J&K but to the Central government. The Centre could deny certain provisions while extending unilaterally some other amendments. For instance, following the 44th Amendment, unlike in the rest of the country, national emergency in J&K could still be imposed on the grounds of ‘internal emergency’. Similarly, while for the rest of the country, freedom of speech could be curtailed only through ‘reasonable restrictions’, in J&K, it could be controlled through restrictions that “appropriate legislation considered reasonable”.

Yes, we do live in a post-truth world but we need to objectively assess J&K’s loss and New Delhi’s real gains when it comes to the dilution of Article 370. Further, whether the apex court will allow India to become a ‘unitary state’ remains to be seen.

Faizan Mustafa is Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. Views expressed are personal

Govt. needs to be prudent in using RBI’s transfer

The fund transfer provides some much-needed relief and manoeuvrability to the beleaguered Centre



M. GOVINDA RAO

With the acceptance of the Bimal Jalan committee’s report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the stand-off between the RBI and the Ministry of Finance seems to have ended for now. The report has also helped to clarify the volume of reserves required for risk provisioning to counter a financial stability crisis if it were to arise.

Though the RBI belongs entirely to the government, the integrity of its balance sheet is important to ensure financial stability and to combat market risks. The committee made its recommendations after taking into account the role of RBI in financial salience; cross-country practices; statutory requirements; and impact of its public policy mandate and operating environment. Based on these factors, it decided on the volume of reserves required to support the financial system in times of crisis

and concluded that the provisioning has to be more stringent than in developed countries to ensure the perception of safety, particularly as India has low sovereign rating and the Indian rupee does not have reserve currency status.

The revised economic capital framework recommended by the committee makes a distinction in the economic capital of the RBI between ‘revaluation reserves’ and ‘realised equity’. Revaluation reserves, it held, are a risk buffer against market risks and not available for transfer. The committee used the Expected Shortfall (ES) method to measure the market risk and adopted a more stringent confidence level of 99.5% as against the practice by other central banks at 99%.

Economic capital range

The revised framework would allow the economic capital to be in the range of 24.5% to 20% of the balance sheet. As regards realised equity, the committee recommended the required range to be between 6.5 to 5.5% of the balance sheet.

The RBI Board in its meeting on August 26 accepted these recommendations and decided to transf-



er ₹1,76,051 crore to the government. As the economic capital of the RBI, at 23.3% in June 2019, was within the prescribed range, it decided to transfer the entire surplus of ₹1,23,414 crore earned during 2018-19. As the RBI had already transferred ₹28,000 crore as interim dividend in February 2019, the remaining amount will be transferred in the current fiscal. The government will get an amount of ₹58,081 crore over the budgeted dividend of ₹90,000 crore for the current fiscal. The large surplus in 2018-2019 was mainly due to the revenues earned from open market operations, amounting to ₹3 lakh crore, to shore up liquidity and therefore, the coming years

may not see such large dividends.

The additional fund transfer from the RBI provides much-needed relief and manoeuvrability to the beleaguered government. An analysis of the budget presented in July shows that the tax revenue projections are far too optimistic. In fact, the actual net tax revenue collection of the centre in 2018-2019 was ₹15.9 lakh crore and to achieve the budgeted target of ₹19.78 lakh crore in 2019-2020, the net tax revenue will have to increase by almost 25% and correspondingly, gross tax revenue will have to grow by 26.5%. The expected shortfall in tax revenue for the Central government, if the past trend is taken (after devolution to the States), is likely to be about ₹70,000 crore.

Achieving fiscal deficit target

With the economy slowing down and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) not kicking in the expected buoyancy, the shortfall may even be higher. The infusion of additional funds, thus, will help the government to substantially overcome this shortfall and achieve the fiscal deficit target without having to axe allocations to social sector and poverty alleviation.

However, while the Central government will overcome the shortfall in tax collections, the States will have to suffer the consequence of lower-than-budgeted revenue realisations. They have presented their budgets taking into account the tax devolution based on Central budget forecast and shortfall in collections will adversely impact their expenditure allocations to various sectors.

If, on the other hand, the tax revenue growth picks up, then the government can use the additional money to clear the dues of the Food Corporation of India and fertiliser companies to minimise spillover of deficits to the next year. The additional funds can also be used to spend on much-needed capital expenditure.

The decision of the RBI Board must be welcomed as it has not come a day sooner and should help the government in combating the economic slowdown and to conform to the fiscal targets. It is hoped that the government will be prudent in using these funds.

The author is Adviser, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The judiciary hears

The Supreme Court has done the right thing in deciding to admit and hear a batch of petitions

challenging the abrogation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 (Front page, “5-judge SC Bench to hear pleas on withdrawal of Article 370,” Aug. 29). Thankfully, it has set in motion the process to decide on the constitutional validity of stripping the erstwhile State of whatever autonomy it had. However, in cautioning the apex court against passing any order or making any observation that can weigh with the UN against India, the Central government has shot itself in the foot. The ruling dispensation in New Delhi should know that invoking ‘national interest’ in a bid to gag or dictate to the country’s top court to suit or serve its political

interest can eventually prove to be self-defeating. It is only fair to say that whatever a democratic government does should stand the scrutiny of the independent judiciary. The judiciary cannot be expected to play second fiddle to the government. Meanwhile, it is very baffling and disconcerting that the Supreme Court has not taken a serious view of the continuing lockdown in the Valley and done little for the people to regain their liberties.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Disgraceful comment

By flippantly commenting in his maiden official media interaction since August 5 that the longer politicians stay in jail, the higher the political dividends for them, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik

has brought disgrace to the office. The comment trivialises the prolonged detention of political leaders and betrays his disdain for the liberty of an individual guaranteed under the Constitution. Equally outrageous is his belief that mobile phones and Internet are essentially weapons of terrorists, and ordinary citizens have little use for them. If so, why not extend such restrictions to the rest of the country? The Governor also displayed his scant regard for decency by predicting that people will beat Congress leaders with shoes (“Front page, 50,000 govt. posts will be filled: Malik,” Aug. 29).

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

Lifting the economy

This is with reference to the article “Hardly the brick and mortar of a revival” by

Jayati Ghosh (Editorial page, Aug. 29). The author is right in saying that the transfer of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) surplus is only a stop-gap measure which will not address the key problems of lack of demand. The present precarious state of Indian economy is visible in the crises experienced by sectors like automobiles, real estate and consumer goods. Badly managed policy measures like demonetisation and improper implementation of GST had caused body blows to the informal economy, which is now having an effect on the formal sector.

T.S.N. RAO,
Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh

RBI’s income

During the course of a recent television panel discussion on the transfer

of ₹1.76 lakh crore from the reserves of the RBI to Central government, an eminent panel member said the RBI’s main income derived from the issue of currency notes. As an example, he stated that the cost of printing a 2,000-rupee currency note comes to about ₹3.50 and the difference between the face value and the cost of its printing is RBI’s main income. This is utterly incorrect. While the cost of printing banknotes is taken as an item of expenditure in RBI’s balance sheet, no income is recorded on

account of issue of notes. The wrong notion of the panel member was not countered by other panellists or the anchor. The main income of RBI comes from interest earned on loans and advances to commercial banks, ways and means advances to State and Central governments, investment in Central government securities and foreign currency assets, etc.

M.O. SEBASTIAN,
Kochi

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>The last paragraph of “Chandrayaan-2 nears Moon” (Aug. 29, 2019) read: “Launched on July 22, Chandrayaan-2 has been in lunar orbits since August 20. It is due to land on the moon’s surface in the early hours of September 7, 48 days after it was launched from Sriharikota.” It should be recast to say: “Launched on July 22, Chandrayaan-2... The lander riding on it is due to land on the moon’s surface in the early hours of September 7, 48 days after its launch from Sriharikota.”

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What is the right way of regulating social media?

PARLEY Besides tech solutions, policy discussions involving the public can help fight fake news

The Supreme Court recently stressed the need to find a balance between the right to online privacy and the right of the state to detect people who use the web to spread panic and commit crimes. Are current regulations and the nature of Internet platforms tuned to find this balance? In a conversation moderated by Srinivasan Ramani, Arun Mohan Sukumar and Raman Chima take stock of the issues involved and offer some suggestions. Excerpts:

Arun, in the last few years there has been an explosion in the use of messaging apps such as WhatsApp. Concomitantly, there has been an increase in fake news and rumour-mongering leading to lynchings. Are the steps taken by WhatsApp to combat this enough or should it do more?

Arun Mohan Sukumar: When you ask us what are the steps, we should also ask whether these are the steps that we should take in the first place. I think many would agree that some of these problems have nothing to do with the platforms themselves and cannot be resolved by technological solutions. Fake news is not something that has been catalysed in the digital age alone; it has been a long-standing problem. We have had very little success in trying to persuade people not to believe certain stuff. And I'm not entirely sure whether the solution to this problem necessarily lies in technology. WhatsApp, to its credit, tried to limit forwards to five people and the norm has been tested. It has been piloted in other parts of the world as well. WhatsApp is looking at India not just as a booming market but also as a place where it can pilot some of these solutions and test them out in other emerging markets as well. If you take uncomfortable situations developing in another part of the world, Facebook and Twitter were fairly quick to acknowledge the disinformation operations that were backed by the Chinese government in Hong Kong. This came out in a simultaneous way, documenting instances where state-spon-

sored elements were perpetrating fake news and sophisticated disinformation campaigns against protesters in Hong Kong. That happened because, one, the extent of the commercial engagement of both these platforms in China is fairly limited. Two, there is an element of geopolitics in this which we can't ignore. The fact is that both of these are American platforms. The orchestrated disclosure, I believe, could have had the blessings of the American government. That is the extent to which these platforms are prepared to take cognisance of fake news. In other economies, it's quite selective. While WhatsApp has been trying to resist this idea of message traceability, it is also trying to maintain the integrity of the platform. Many regulators in India believe that technological fixes are solutions even if they weaken end-to-end encryption. I'm not sure that is the right way to go.

Raman, while technology per se is not the problem, virality of texts makes fake news spread very fast. Would you agree with some of the solutions that have been propounded – for example, Professor V. Kamakoti's idea of tracing origin of WhatsApp messages?

Raman Chima: Firstly, on virality, communication virality has been there right from the invention of the Gutenberg printing press. Mass circulation has always resulted in tension between people in power with others. When it comes to messaging services, when they were implemented in India and in other emerging economies, they were not just used for the purpose of messaging. They were, for many people, information discovery platforms. They do not often relate or refer to the World Wide Web. The kind of information consumed in messages are images and videos that may not be actually hosted on the web. The problem, therefore, is that messaging platforms haven't been able to do a good job in ensuring that people have access to good, accurate information. For example, if you sign up



Local law enforcement agencies have very limited avenues by which they can prevent the proliferation of malicious content on the Internet through social media platforms at a time of crisis. So, they resort to shutdowns in a ham-handed fashion.

to a messaging service, say WhatsApp, are you informed in your local language about how you could report in your own language disinformation content and messages that are malicious or abusive? Sadly, the reality is that there is not even a splash screen in the local language to know what you can or cannot say, during the process of signing up. Also, fact-checking websites, fake news busters and government sources don't get the support they need to distribute their content to local users in interior areas. Therefore, the messaging services companies could do more in fighting disinformation. I agree with Arun that they cannot be held liable and that they shouldn't implement technological solutions as a panacea. You mentioned suggestions by Professor Kamakoti of IIT Madras to the Madras High Court. First of all, there is the argument that the Madras High Court should not be going into an area which is a legislative issue. Even if that is set aside, his proposals have been critiqued by other computer scientists. Professor Manoj Prabhakaran of IIT Bombay, for example, has argued against such models of imparting traceability.

Both of you seem to agree that the solution doesn't lie in technology, and neither is there any need to add any extra layer of liability for social media platforms and websites. So, the Shreya Singhal judgment in 2015 was along these lines, right? Some provisions on intermediary liability on publishing were actually read down. But last year, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified new draft rules for intermediaries and called for public comments. What levels of liability would you set for social media platforms?

AMS: There has been a raft of litigious activity and, concurrently, fairly explosive growth in regulatory guidelines as well. These guidelines from the government have been trying to enhance the agency of the government over technology companies. For instance, there is a debate among government industries today about data localisation, something that will affect the working of most of these big technology companies. The fundamental tension at work is that most of the technology companies, which are into the bread-and-butter business of communication, are based abroad. The consumer base is clear with a WhatsApp or Facebook or Twitter. WhatsApp has effectively made encrypted communication a mass market phenomenon here, which is great for correspondence generally. But on the other hand, the government has very little agency to make these companies do what they want to in

terms of adhering to certain intermediary guidelines. Of course, the reason why these guidelines were lampooned was because the government imposed a high degree of liability, and takedown requirements in many cases were selectively followed. The fact is that if you were to take a step back and look, the government has very limited agency over these companies at the moment. On the one hand, there is a great deal of adoption by a wide user base, which is only increasing as Internet connectivity grows in India. And WhatsApp did not even have an office in India till very lately! And the same thing goes for Internet shutdowns. Now, nobody would say that Internet shutdowns are a desirable phenomenon. But if you speak to local law enforcement agencies and district magistrates, they tell you that they have very limited avenues by which they can prevent the proliferation of malicious content on the Internet through social media platforms at a time of crisis, whether that crisis is a natural calamity or whether it is man made. So, they have resorted to these in a ham-handed fashion. Of course, you can't justify these measures. But the fact is that at the local level or at the federal level, there seems to be very little agency that government officials have to do what they should do.

RC: On intermediary liability, it has already been identified by our judiciary that the issue of making platforms liable for the content posted by users impacts free speech. And the basic premise there is, you can put pressure on tech platforms to over censor or even perhaps harm the privacy of users by making them liable for all the content they have posted on platforms. When Parliament legislated provisions, there were some ambiguities over what the executive branch could regulate via rules. Rules were criticised when they were released in 2012 and, ultimately, as you mentioned, they were read down in the *Shreya Singhal* judgment. The court basically said that if you are asking for content takedowns, that can be done only via a court order or through a legal process. The government's proposed amendments to the rules, for example, that web platforms should deploy self-censoring/auto-filtering of content by

users could definitely fly against the face of the court's judgment. More importantly, on some issues such as identifying the origin of messages through breaking encryption, the government seems to be using rule-making as a way to fix and patch these. Whereas it would be better off to have substantial legislative policy discussions held in a public manner over such knotty issues. Also, as Arun says, there is a lack of agency for the government to receive information from the platforms as there is no clear privacy law in place. **Government agencies lack sufficient agency and often use a ham-handed approach to enforce takedowns or shutdowns. In some cases, a total communication shutdown, as we see in Kashmir today, invoking 'national interest'. What kind of mechanisms would you suggest instead of this approach?**

AMS: We did this capacity-building workshop a couple of years ago, with law enforcement agencies from across States. Some States clearly did better, because they had, for lack of a better reason, good cops. They were interested in pursuing this sort of "finesse" measures and not merely rely on takedowns. Telangana, for instance, has a cadre of officers who dedicate themselves to preventing the propagation of fake news through channels like WhatsApp. Some of these steps require serious investment and I am not sure if all States have the capacity. So perhaps the Prime Minister's/ the Centre's sending a message down to folks at the district level may well produce some results. But the fact is that they resort to these ham-handed measures because they do not have any other tools. But I also agree that India is one of the countries which often tops the number of takedown requests, but it's not the only country or the only government that is interested in data from users. Facebook's reports that indicate the number of requests that the government has made for a takedown show that India's [requests for a takedown] are up there with the U.S. government or any other Western European government.



Arun Mohan Sukumar heads the Cyber Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation



Raman Chima is co-founder and trustee at the Internet Freedom Foundation

Australia's economic woes

It is time for property rights to be moved away from competing private owners to governments

CHAD SATTERLEE

Australia holds the world record among developed countries for the longest period of uninterrupted economic growth. But there are signs of this remarkable streak being in serious trouble, owing to the chaotic nature of the country's economic system, where most productive assets are privately owned and the major decisions regarding how to use them are made by the market. In this paradigm, the livelihoods of current and future generations of Australians are being left to chance.

No jobs plan

First, consider job creation. Australia has no overarching jobs plan. Granted, private profit-driven employers in competition with each other are currently keeping most of the workforce employed. But the terms of these arrangements, including the existence of the jobs themselves, are ultimately determined privately and subject to change at any moment. One of the most important of such terms concerns pay rates. The key issue here is that many Australian wage-earners have not had a pay rise commensurate with the rising cost of living for the last six years.

This makes sense for individual businesses, because fixing labour costs helps to boost their profits. If most businesses do this, however, they end up unintentionally harming themselves as a group, since poorer workers no longer have enough spending power to buy as many goods and services (or service debts), and so sales and profits decline. Unnecessary workers are eventually laid off. If workers undertake training or education suitable for an industry that becomes unprofitable for whatever reason, then that is just how the chips fall in Australia's economic system. A labour market paradigm with fewer upheavals and less frictional unemployment would require long-term planning and might require certain industries to make concessions at the negotiating table. Alternatively, a robust government job guarantee system could play the role of a safety net.

Second, consider Australia's energy shortfalls. Even though Australia

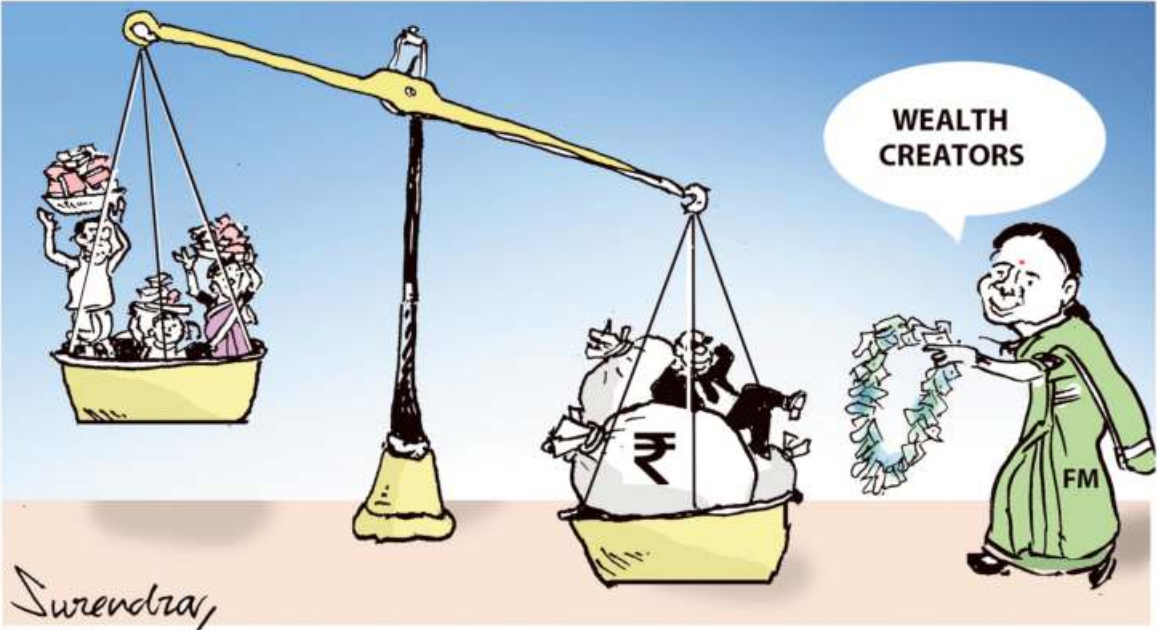
has some of the world's most abundant reserves of natural gas, in early 2017, tens of thousands of Australians went without power during a heat-wave. In large measure this was because private businesses correctly calculated that exporting gas overseas was more profitable than meeting the needs of the domestic market. Australia's energy problems are often blamed on the failure of governments to set a stable investment framework. But the core issue is that the market is functioning normally. What is more, the uncoordinated decisions of businesses in Australia's energy market are soon expected to bring about a surplus of electricity, which means lower prices and investor returns.

Will private owners continue supplying enough electricity to meet Australia's energy needs in exchange for lower rates of return? According to the rules of the country's economic system, it is entirely up to them. There is likewise no plan to replace Australia's ageing power stations in an orderly fashion. Older power stations will continue malfunctioning and closing indiscriminately, causing electricity prices to move as erratically upwards as they can downwards, without any regard for the impact this has on people. A much less irrational arrangement used to be in place in Australia until around 1990: government ownership and control of electricity grids.

Changing the agenda

Meanwhile, scientists tell us we have 15 years to transition away from fossil fuel energy sources. The huge mobilisation of resources and economic restructuring required to meet environmental constraints is fundamentally at odds with the chaotic nature of market competition. An integrated public energy and jobs plan could explicitly take these constraints into account. The prospect of shifting property rights away from competing private owners to governments as a practical way of coherently addressing some of the Australian economy's pressing problems should now be put on the policy agenda.

Chad Satterlee is an Australia-based political economist



NOTEBOOK

The delicate art of writing an obituary

And the tricky relationship between reporters and sources

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Last week, following former Union Minister Arun Jaitley's death, newspapers were filled with vignettes about him. Many journalists who were close to him shared their grief on social media, while others pointed out Jaitley's shortcomings and critically analysed his tenure as Finance Minister. Heated debates broke out on the delicate art of writing an obituary. Fingers were pointed at reporters and editors who were considered to be part of Jaitley's inner coterie for not being "objective" in their reactions.

The question of how close you keep a source, especially a senior minister, an opposition leader, a bureaucrat, or a police officer, is tricky. It's fatal for a reporter to not have access to those in power. After all, we need their views, whether their comments are on or off the record. We

need their perspective to understand events, remarks and policies. The debate last week led me to the age-old dilemma on the relationship between a source and a reporter: How close is too close? The distance between a source and a reporter should be such that the source doesn't hold sway over the reporter, while the reporter still gets information. Information is, after all, our lifeline. For a reporter to call a source every morning is not an unusual practice. But what she does after the phone call – that is, how she processes and reports the information she has received – is what matters. Sources expect a lot from reporters. A reporter is sometimes expected to brush under the carpet any scoop that could hurt their source and/ or their interests. Often a reporter is simply expected to write in a way that could help further

the source's agenda. Sometimes, reporters are expected to cover up the source's mistakes and gaffes. A senior minister once told me, "You write in your own words, just make sure you embellish it well". I refused to respond to the comment and walked out of his office. Each of us reporters can recount endless instances of getting cornered in corridors by politicians complaining about their quotes being omitted in reports or not finding their names in the newspaper. We receive sarcastic text messages like, "Oh, I suppose your paper could not find space." Recently, after a factual report on parliamentary proceedings was published, I was yelled at by a politician from down south. He went on to allege that I am reporting on behalf of his political rivals. In return for this "disservice", reporters are often threatened that informa-

tion, our currency, will be denied to us. "Next time you call me asking for details, I will not pick up your call," we are curtly told. So, reporters have to constantly walk a tightrope. This brings me to the task of writing obituaries. In a 2013 piece on the dos and don'ts of writing an obituary, Nick Serpell, then Obituary Editor of BBC News, wrote that an obituary "should be true, balanced and fair in the context of that person's life. It should neither be a eulogy or a character assassination". The question is this: How do you stay detached after a source's death when you have known them all your life, seen them through their highs and lows, and perhaps shared your own ups and downs with them? You have to err on the side of caution, I have been told. Separate your personal grief and professional duty.

The  **Hindu.**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 30, 1969

Mao's tactics enrage the Kremlin

The border clashes between the Russians and the Chinese are symptomatic of a deep conflict between the two regimes. Each is now claiming that the other is unpopular and illegitimate. The Peking "People's Daily" recently said that the Russian people want to rise in revolution and "overthrow the Soviet revisionist renegade clique". In Moscow, the "Literaturnaya Gazeta" asserts that there is a bitter struggle for power in China between Chairman Mao and his heir-designate Marshal Lin Biao and that the conflict has polarised into two clans. The journal thinks that Lin Biao will soon take over from the ageing Chairman. Other reports indicate that the Russians are considering drastic action against the Chinese if they escalate the border clashes. It would appear that the Chinese have the advantage in manpower, if not in weapons, and could choose areas of conflict that would favour them. Mr. Brezhnev has publicly stated that he would not allow the Soviet Union to be provoked into unconsidered actions, but the temperature in Russia is steadily rising since the public have no doubts that the Chinese have embarked on a course of deliberate provocation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 30, 1919.

Education in Travancore.

(From an Editorial)

The Travancore Government have always held education to be the main line of advance in the progressive policy for the uplift of the people on modern lines; and so responsive have been the people to the working out of this principle that Government now consider it necessary to review the whole field of Education, in order to work up to new educational ideals and to provide the necessary money for that purpose. Some idea of the progress made in Education for the decennium ending 1093 - may be found from the expenditure by the Government for that period. The gross expenditure rose from 7.41 lakhs in 1084 to Rs. 22.21 lakhs in 1093 or by 200 per cent during the decade. For the year 1094 the revised estimate is nearly Rs. 23 ½ lakhs. The proportion of expenditure on education to the total revenues of the State is now about 15 per cent which, by the way, is exclusive of the expenditure on the construction and maintenance of buildings. The net expenditure on education has advanced from Rs. 5 ¾ lakhs in 1084 to over 16 ½ lakhs in 1093.

This is the first time since the August 18 Rohtak rally — where Mr. Hooda indicated

Centre defers investor summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to postpone by a month its planned maiden investor summit in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The meet, originally scheduled for October, had been postponed as arrangements, including those for security for the delegates, could not be made in time.

“There is no time to make the preparations and arrange the logistics,” said the official speaking on condition of anonymity. “It has been decided to postpone the summit by a month.”

Navin K. Choudhary, Principal Secretary, Industry & Commerce and Tourism Department, Jammu & Kashmir, announced on August 13 that the summit would be held in Srinagar and Jammu from October 12 to 14.

Union Ministers, representatives of various State governments and top industrialists and business groups of the country were expected to participate.

Another official said that the Cabinet Secretary was monitoring the situation in the Kashmir Valley. “All Ministries have been asked to make a blueprint on how they could generate employment and contribute to development in J&K,” the official said.

U.S. again expresses concern on J&K

Comments come three days after Trump said Modi felt he had the situation under control

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Three days after U.S. President Donald Trump met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France and discussed the situation in Kashmir, American officials said they were “concerned” about the continuing communication restrictions and detentions.

Mr. Trump had said that during their discussion on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Modi had said that he “really feels he has it under control”, and that India and Pakistan could resolve the issue bilaterally.

Sources told *The Hindu* that diplomats from different embassies, including senior U.S. and U.K. officials, had



The U.S. has expressed concern over continued restrictions and communication blockade. •PTI

been meeting External Affairs Ministry officials over the past few days to stress that they were watching the situation closely.

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson said on Thursday:

“We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of the region. We urge respect for human rights, compliance with legal proce-

dures, and inclusive dialogue with those affected. We welcome Prime Minister Modi’s statement that J&K will soon return to a normal political status.”

The spokesperson added, “We call on all parties to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Control and to prevent cross-border terrorism. We continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues of concern.”

The comments, which also addressed recent statements by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, said: “The United States is watching the situation in Jammu

and Kashmir closely. We continue to call for calm and restraint, including on rhetoric...We note the broader implications of the developments in Jammu and Kashmir and the potential for increased instability in the region.”

The comments came on a day Human Rights Watch issued a statement urging the government to lift the communication shutdown and alleging that the curbs had caused “disproportionate harm on the population”.

The government has maintained that the restrictions are necessary to prevent large-scale violence and subvert terrorist threats.

India condemns Pak. call for jihad

‘No alarming situation in J&K’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan’s recent statements regarding Kashmir are aimed at painting an alarming situation in India, Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, said here on Thursday.

At the weekly briefing, Mr. Kumar condemned Pakistan’s statements that had called for waging a jihad against India.

“Statements and tweets have been issued from Pakistan that have called for violence in India. Pakistan should understand that the world has realised its clever moves and they will not be fooled by such tactics. We strongly condemn highly irresponsible statements made by the Pakistani leadership that called for jihad and intended to present an alarmist situation in India,” Mr. Kumar said.

The statement came a day after Islamabad’s Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari wrote to several UN officials citing human rights violations in Kashmir after India ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 and bifurcated the territory.

The Minister has argued in her public statements that the right of self-determination is a “legally enforceable” right.

However, Mr. Kumar said he would not like to lend any credence to the letter



Raveesh Kumar

from the Minister. “The letter is not even worth the paper on which it was written on,” said Mr. Kumar, who urged Pakistan to behave like a “normal country”.

He reiterated the Indian position about Pakistan using terrorists and terror groups operating from its soil.

“Normal neighbours do not push terrorists into a neighbouring country. Normal neighbours do normal talk and normal trade. This is not something that Pakistan is doing,” said Mr. Kumar, acknowledging that intelligence reports suggest some terror elements from Pakistan are trying to enter Indian territory through the sea route.

He maintained that the Indian military is ready to deal with any such threat.

Pakistan on Thursday tested a short-range ballistic missile, after informing India and by following protocol.

Tribunal upholds ban on SIMI for another five years

‘Its activists are under an umbrella of frontal organisations’

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has told a tribunal that the Students Islamic of India (SIMI) is filing applications under the Right to Information Act (RTI) to help its members who are facing trial in various courts.

Based on the submissions made by the Ministry and State police departments, a tribunal constituted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has upheld the ban against SIMI for another five years. The outfit was first banned in 2001, and this is the eighth time it has been banned.

To impose the fresh ban, the tribunal examined at least 34 cases registered against the members and former members of SIMI by the police across the country after January 2014. In a 75-page order, the tribunal headed by Justice Mukta Gupta said some of the members and activists of SI-

It’s evident that they are continuing to receive funds within India and through foreign funding

UAPA TRIBUNAL

MI are working under the “umbrella of frontal organisations and having links with number of other terrorist organisations Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Islamic State, Indian Mujahideen etc.” The tribunal said that it was “evident that they were continuing to receive funds within India as also through foreign funding.”

The tribunal said it examined two public witnesses and 50 witnesses from the government to reach the conclusion. It said that it received “11 sealed covers in the form of intelligence reports, secret informations collected from time to time by the investigating and intelligence agencies” against

SIMI. “One of the (sealed) reports also note about a one-month campaign organised by activists of SIMI under the name and banner of an umbrella organisation and that the activists of SIMI and some of their members and sympathisers are filing RTI applications in the various proceedings to help the accused or members in the trials for committing various offences. The sealed cover placed on record by S.C.L. Das, Joint Secretary, MHA,” the tribunal ruled.

The Tamil Nadu police deposed that “SIMI activists/cadres are regrouping themselves under the banner of Wahadat-e-Islami Hind (WeIH) to expand their militant outreach among Muslim youth under the guise of spreading Islamic ideology. SIMI activists under the guise of WeIH continue to hold meetings, classes, symposium, seminars etc. to spread their anti-national ideology.”

Javadekar says he was misquoted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday issued a clarification on his comments during a speech on the importance of communication, saying that he was quoted out of context.

At a community radio awards function, Mr. Javadekar said, “What is the biggest punishment, when people are not able to contact anyone, when they are not able to talk to anyone and when you do not have any tool to communicate... this is the biggest punishment.”

The Press Bureau of Information, in a statement, quoted Mr. Javadekar as saying that “sections of media have unnecessarily attempted to link the situation in Jammu & Kashmir region with my comments about the significance of community radio and communication in general, which amounts to irresponsible and unethical journalism.”

Collegium nod for four new judges in SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium is learnt to have recommended four High Court judges for appointment to the apex court.

The Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, a source said, has recommended the Chief Justices of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala High Courts, V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy, respectively, as Supreme Court judges.

The vacancies in the court have increased to four after the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019 was made a law and following the recent retirement of Justice A.M. Sapre. The new law increased the judicial strength from 31 to 34, including the CJI.

Digital media firms say FDI norms are ‘restrictive’

They feel existing and new platforms will be affected

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Companies operating news portals expressed disappointment on Thursday with the government’s new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy capping the investment in digital media at 26%, saying that the measure would impact both existing digital platforms as also affect new platforms that may be looking to expand.

On Wednesday, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the Cabinet had cleared FDI up to 26% under the “government route” for digital media companies that upload or stream news and current affairs.

This is a departure from the existing policy, as until now only the print media and news broadcast television companies in India



have had FDI caps of 26% and 49%, respectively.

Several digital media outlets that *The Hindu* spoke to were unwilling to speak on record but explained that some of them would likely have to restructure and look for Indian investors as they had more than 26% foreign investment.

“The Indian investors are not bullish and are mostly reluctant to invest in media portals, more so in the current economic situation,” said Vignesh Vellore, CEO of

The News Minute. “The new policy hurts smaller players like us and the ones who are looking to launch new projects. In future, when we have to look at investments to scale up our operations, this kind of cap will be very discouraging,” he said.

“Digital news media was unregulated & thriving so far. 100% FDI was allowed in start ups. Now govt wants to limit FDI to 26%. This is regressive. Cos already operating with 50% or 100% FDI will have to divest foreign equity in favour of domestic when capital is scarce and scared!” M. K. Venu, a founding editor of *The Wire*, tweeted.

In a series of tweets, Nikhil Pahwa, founder of Mediama, a portal dedicated to digital business, described the new policy as ‘restrictive’.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
E-TENDER NOTICE
TENDER ID: 2019_AAI_31023_1
Airports Authority of India invites Item Rate Tenders through e-Tendering Portal by Joint General Manager Eng. (Elect.), AAI, Chennai Airport, Chennai on behalf of Chairman, AAI from the eligible Contractors of appropriate class of CPWD / MES / P&T / Railways / State PWD / PSUs / Municipal Corporations and Development Authorities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata / Specialized agencies for the work "FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF GLF, APRON FLOOD LIGHTING, PERIMETER LIGHTING SYSTEM ETC. AT CHENNAI AIRPORT" for an Estimated Cost of ₹ 1,70,04,944.00 (Excluding GST) with Period of Completion 24 (Twenty Four) Months. **Last Date and Time of Sale and Submission of Bid Document is 12.09.2019 upto 1800 Hours.** For Detailed Information, log on to CPP e-Procurement Portal reference <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> or www.aai.aero. Further Clarification / Corrigendum if any will be notified through e-Procurement Portal at <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT
ANDHRA PRADESH DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT
WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECT-CREDIT NO:5694-IN
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)
IFB NOS:194to200/AP/PR/APDRP/RRCS/PRED/2019-20 Dt:26-08-2019
Government of India have received a credit from the international Development Association towards the cost of Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works. The Project Manager, Panchayat Raj, PIU, APDRP invites 2nd call (Roads) and 5th call (Bridge) through online item rate e-bids from the registered bidders of Government of Andhra Pradesh or other State Governments/ Government of India, or State/ Central Government undertakings **for the construction of Roads 6 packages in Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam Districts and 1 bridge package in Srikakulam District** through website of Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> from **05.09.2019 onwards**.
Sd/- Project Manager, PIU(PR), APDRP, Visakhapatnam
DIPR 116PP/CL, Dt.29/08/2019

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Mangalore Research Centre, Post Box No. 244,
Hoige Bazar, Mangalore - 575001, Karnataka State, India.
F.No.11-9/2019(M) Date: 27.08.2019
APPLICATION OF SETTING UP OF AQUAONE CENTER (AOC)
ICAR-CMFRI, Mangalore Research Centre invites applications from interested and experienced entrepreneurs/firms/companies/organizations for setting up of Aqua One Center in coastal districts of Karnataka viz; Dakshina Kannada/Udupi/Karwar for providing seed rearing facilities, ICT enabled Aquaculture Support Services like Farmer Enrolment, Pond Monitoring, Input Distribution, Data Management, Training Schedule Management, Advisory Services. The application form can be downloaded from the website www.cmfri.org.in
Last date for submission of Application is 30/09/2019 at 17:00 hrs
Sealed envelope marked to the below address, containing Application with all relevant documents may be submitted mentioning "Application for Setting up of Aqua One Centers" on the top of the envelope containing the document.
The Scientist-in-Charge, Mangalore Research Centre of ICAR-CMFRI, P.B.No 244, Hoige Bazar, Mangalore, Karnataka - 575001
sd/-Scientist-in-Charge

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EE (PLANNING) WATER-II 401, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHANDEWALAN KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005 Phone: 011-23678380-82 Extn 206 PRESS NIT No.: 01/Plg-W-11 /2019-20			
Name of Work	Tender Amount/ Earnest Money/ Tender Fee	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement system/ ID No.	Last date/ time of receipt of tender through e-procurement system
Engagement of 3rd Party Inspection Agency for DJB works over 1 crore for a period of 5 years	Item Rate/ Rs. 20 Lakh/ Rs. 1500/-	29.08.2019/ 2019_DJB_179102_1	18.09.2019 upto 3.00 pm
Further details in this regard can be seen at website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in ISSUED BY P.R.O (water) Advt. No. J.S.V. 309/2019-20 Executive Engineer (PLG.) W-II			

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(SOUTH)-I OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET: NEW DELHI-110017. NIT NO. 25/(S-4)/2019-20			
S. NO.	Name of Work	Estimated cost/ Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Desilting of deep and silted up sewer lines manholes of Vasant Kunj Institutional area, Vasant Kunj Phase-2 against deficiency charges deposited by D.D.A. under EE(South)-I.	Item Rate/ 65800/-	2019_DJB_178920_1 27.08.2019 20.09.2019 upto 3.00PM
NIT NO. 26/(S-4)/2019-20			
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Reconstruction of damaged manholes & raising of buried manholes of peripheral sewer line of Vasant Kunj Phase-2 against deficiency charges deposited by DDA under EE(South)-I	45,05,260/-	2019_DJB_178926_1 27.08.2019 23.09.2019 upto 3.00PM
NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on web https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 302/2019-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(SOUTH)-I			

KMML - The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines), 2651000, Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721
E-mail: contact@kmml.com; URL www.kmml.com
Competitive Tenders are invited for following: For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1.	2019_KMML_297392_1	Civil works for the 14 TPH Packaged Boiler in KMML
2.	2019_KMML_297394_1	Providing foundation for FRP acid storage tank in KMML
3.	2019_KMML_295086_1	For Transportation of 1670MT of Sulphuric Acid
4.	2019_KMML_295007_1	For Fabrication and supply of 1 No. Filter Head for Bag Filter
5.	Tender for the Sales of Iron Oxide Dry Powder (600 MT approximate) on annual contract basis	
Sealed competitive tenders are invited from interested parties for the sales of Iron Oxide Dry Powder (600 MT approximate) on annual contract basis. Tender Documents are available on kmml website: www.kmml.com for more details please contact: 0476 2651212, 2651321 & agmmktg@kmml.com		

Chavara 30-08-2019
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge
HOU (TP/HR)
For The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
SRIHARIKOTA-524124.
E-TENDER BRIEF NOTICE
e-Tender Notice No.CMG/CY/ 1987027 Date: 26.08.2019
1. On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender is invited through e-tendering for the following work(s).

Sl.No.	Description	Details
1	Title of Work	Construction of Service Building for Parking MMH & MON3 Propellant transfer units at First Launch Pad Under PIF Project, Civil Works.
2	Estimated Cost put to tender	₹ 58 Lakhs
3	Period of Completion	03 Months
4	Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: 03/09/2019, 10:00 Hrs. To: 13/09/2019, 14:00 Hrs.
5	Last date and time for uploading of tenders	17/09/2019, 14:30 Hrs.

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website www.isro.gov.in / www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. For further details and purchase of tender documents visit www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. Ph:08623 226447, 226420.
Group Director, CMG, SDSC SHAR

UN warns of rising seas, storm surges

Draft report says rising global ocean waterline could displace 250 million people by year 2100

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

The same oceans that nourished human evolution are poised to unleash misery on a global scale unless the carbon pollution destabilising Earth's marine environment is brought to heel, warns a draft UN report obtained by AFP.

Destructive changes already set in motion could see a steady decline in fish stocks, a hundred-fold or more increase in the damages caused by superstorms, and hundreds of millions of people displaced by rising seas, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "special report" on oceans and Earth's frozen zones, known as the cryosphere. As the 21st century unfolds, melting glaciers will first give too much



Storm is brewing: Ice sheets floating in the Ilulissat Icefjord, Greenland. • GETTY IMAGES/FILE

and then too little to billions who depend on them for fresh water, it finds.

Without deep cuts to man-made emissions, at least 30% of the northern hemisphere's surface permafrost could melt by century's end,

unleashing billions of tonnes of carbon and accelerating global warming even more.

The 900-page scientific assessment is the fourth such tome from the UN in less than a year, with others focused on a 1.5-Celsius cap

on global warming, the state of biodiversity, and how to manage forests and the global food system.

All four conclude that humanity must overhaul the way it produces and consumes almost everything to

avoid the worst ravages of climate change and environmental degradation.

Governments meet in Monaco next month to vet the new report's official summary. The final advice to policymakers will be released on September 25.

Extreme events

By 2050, many low-lying megacities and small island nations will experience "extreme sea level events" every year, the report concludes.

Even if the world manages to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius, the global ocean waterline will rise enough to displace more 250 million people.

The report indicated this could happen as soon as 2100, though some experts think it is more likely to happen on a longer timescale.

U.S. to keep 8,600 troops in Afghanistan after peace deal

We're always going to have a presence, says President Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Thursday said U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan will drop to 8,600 if a deal is reached with the Taliban and that a permanent presence will remain.

"We're going down to 8,600 and then we make a determination from there," Mr. Trump said in an interview with Fox News radio. "We're always going to have a presence."

Mr. Trump also said that if another attack on the U.S. originated from Afghanistan "we would come back with a force like... never before."

U.S. troops were first sent to Afghanistan after the Sep-



Donald Trump

tember 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil carried out by al-Qaeda, which was sheltered by the former Taliban regime.

Washington now wants to end its military involvement and has been talking to the Taliban since at least 2018. Mr. Trump says that troops

will only be reduced when the Taliban gives a guarantee that its territory will not be used by al-Qaeda or other international militant groups.

'High intelligence'

Mr. Trump underlined that there was to be no complete withdrawal, keeping a force that would provide "high intelligence." "You have to keep a presence," he said.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who was confirmed as the Pentagon chief a month ago, told reporters that talks with the Taliban in Qatar must guarantee that Afghanistan "is no longer a safe haven for terrorists to attack the U.S."

ELSEWHERE



'Comey violated policies with Trump memos'

WASHINGTON

Former FBI director James Comey violated agency policies by leaking memos of private conversations with President Donald Trump, the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General said on Thursday. AFP

Brazil bans burning across country for 2 months

PORTO VELHO

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has signed a decree to ban burning throughout the country for two months as the authorities scramble to defuse the Amazon fires, which have triggered a global outcry. AFP

Italy's Conte gets green light to form new government

He will lead a coalition of 5-Star and Democratic Party

REUTERS
ROME

Italy's President asked Giuseppe Conte to lead a coalition of the 5-Star Movement and opposition Democratic Party (PD) on Thursday, a move could that could improve Italy's fractious relations with the European Union.

Markets welcomed the prospect of a quick end to a three-week political crisis triggered by League leader Matteo Salvini, who pulled his hard-right party out of its governing alliance with 5-Star after weeks of public bickering.

Mr. Salvini had wanted



Giuseppe Conte

fresh polls to capitalise on his party's success in European elections but his plan backfired as 5-Star and the PD, lagging the League in opinion surveys, set aside their long-standing anti-

pathy to form a government.

Mr. Conte, who told reporters he would present a cabinet list to the President in the coming days, said his priority was to draft a 2020 budget.

The creation of a new government is not yet a done deal, however, and the two parties still need to agree a shared policy platform and divide up cabinet posts.

In a further complication, 5-Star has promised to put the deal with the PD to an online vote of its members. Many 5-Star supporters oppose a pact with the centre-left and a 'yes' vote is not a certainty.

Gillibrand ends U.S. presidential bid

The #MeToo proponent pulled out of the Democratic race over low polling, funds

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand dropped out of the presidential race on Wednesday, abruptly ending a campaign that drew on her strong #MeToo credentials and looked formidable but instead collapsed amid surprisingly low polling and major fundraising struggles.

"I know this isn't the result that we wanted," the 52-year-old New York Senator said in an online video, in which she did not endorse any other 2020 Democratic White House hopeful. "But it's important to know when it's not your time."

The decision came as Ms. Gillibrand failed to qualify for a debate coming next

month in Houston by not hitting 2% in at least four approved public opinion polls while securing 1,30,000 unique donors despite spending millions on online and TV ads to woo people contributing as little as \$1. That proved especially embarrassing since candidates who began the race with far lower national profiles, including businessman Andrew Yang, made it.

On the eve of Wednesday's qualifying deadline, Ms. Gillibrand sat down with her family and decided that if a pair of polls set to be released the following morning didn't help her meet the polling threshold, she'd drop out. Both ultimately showed her at 0%.



Kirsten Gillibrand

To get to the U.S. House, Ms. Gillibrand had topped an incumbent Republican in a conservative part of upstate New York in 2007, and she was appointed to the Senate two years later, filling the seat vacated by Hillary Clinton.

She later retained the seat during a 2010 special election, as well as in 2012 and 2018.

Vocal in the Senate on curbing sexual harassment and military sexual assault, and promoting equal pay for women and family leave, Ms. Gillibrand made those and her staunch defence of abortion rights the core of her presidential bid.

She stood out in the packed Democratic presidential field by becoming the first to declare she'd only appoint judges to the Supreme Court who consider the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalising abortion nationwide settled law, though most of her competitors quickly followed suit.

MPs move court in bid to prevent suspension of U.K. Parliament

Protests are planned across Britain tomorrow

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's suspension of Parliament just weeks before Britain's EU departure date faced legal challenges on Thursday.

Mr. Johnson announced the surprise decision on Wednesday to dismiss Parliament next month for nearly five weeks, claiming his new government needed to start afresh in order to pursue a "bold and ambitious" post-Brexit domestic agenda.

But the move ahead of the October 31 Brexit date sent shockwaves through the

British political system.

Mr. Johnson's opponents labelled the suspension of Parliament a "coup" and a "constitutional outrage".

Main opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is mulling a no-confidence vote against Mr. Johnson's Conservative government, which commands a majority of just one seat.

It prompted immediate court bids in London, Edinburgh and Belfast to halt the process.

A ruling is expected in the Edinburgh case on Friday.

Gina Miller, a businesswoman and leading anti-Brexit campaigner, has applied for

an urgent judicial review in London challenging "the effect and the intention" of the suspension.

In Scotland's highest civil court, 75 MPs are seeking an interim interdict to halt Mr. Johnson's move.

Meanwhile, campaigner Raymond McCord launched a legal bid in Belfast to block Mr. Johnson's move, with a hearing set for Friday.

An online petition seeking to block the decision unless Brexit is delayed or cancelled had garnered around 1.5 million signatures on Thursday.

Mass protests are planned across Britain on Saturday.

Yemen accuses UAE of conducting air strikes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADEN

Yemen's government on Thursday accused the UAE of launching air strikes against its troops in the interim capital Aden in support of separatists who say they have regained control of the southern city.

The United Arab Emirates has trained and supported secessionists who seek an independent southern Yemen, although it is a key pillar in a Saudi-led military coalition backing the Yemeni government against Iran-aligned Houthi rebels.

"The Yemeni government condemns the Emirati air strikes against government forces in the interim capital Aden and in Zinjibar, which resulted in civilian and mili-

tary casualties," Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad al-Hadhrami said in a tweet.

He urged Saudi Arabia "to stand by the legitimate government and stop this illegal and unjustified military escalation".

The fighting has opened a new front in a complex war that has already claimed tens of thousands of lives and sparked what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The UN said at least 13 people were reported to have been killed and 70 wounded during clashes this week.

The clashes between separatists and government forces have raised concerns that the famine-threatened country could break apart entirely.

China sends more troops to Hong Kong as police ban rally

The deployment is a routine rotation, says Beijing

REUTERS
HONG KONG

China sent fresh troops to Hong Kong on Thursday as part of a "routine" garrison rotation, as the financial hub braced for a new round of violent protests after police refused permission for a mass rally at the weekend.

Chinese State media on Thursday broadcast a video of armoured personnel carriers and trucks driving across the Hong Kong border, describing it as a routine rotation of the garrison stationed in the semi-autonomous city.

"Before coming... we learned about the situation



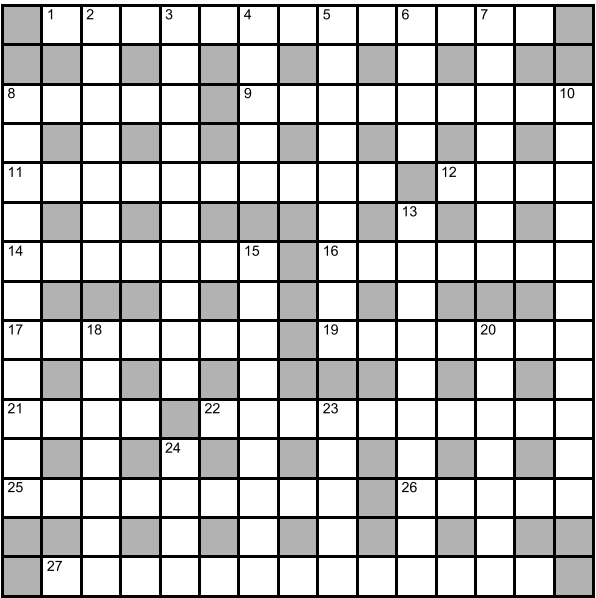
Soldiers at the Shek Kong military base of the PLA in New Territories, Hong Kong, on Thursday. • REUTERS

of Hong Kong," PLA officer Lieutenant-Colonel Yang Zheng said in a PR video.

The rotation came less than 24 hours after police denied permission for a new

mass rally planned for Saturday that was expected to draw hundreds of thousands of people to the streets – the 13th consecutive week of protests.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12718



■ ACROSS

- 1 Unpredictable native about to restrain man on island (13)
- 8 Unadulterated drugs, essentially cocaine consumed by freak (5)
- 9 Ultraconservative single socialite girl, grabbed by bully (9)
- 11 They speculate in article – gold about to escalate

- by start of September (10)
- 12 One unable to fly in air heartily (4)
- 14 Current is excellent, runs fine and deep (7)
- 16 Mutter softly perhaps? Quite the opposite (7)
- 17 Serial directed by one countryman (7)
- 19 Grand university essentially crumbling in mess (7)
- 21 Last victory secured by deceit (4)
- 22 Fashionable celebrities refuse to enter opening, almost with touch of impudence (10)
- 25 Intimidate one after blunder in constructing set (9)
- 26 Cheat knocking back spirit in regret (5)
- 27 Only those with a tan can figure out what's unacceptable? (6, 3, 4)

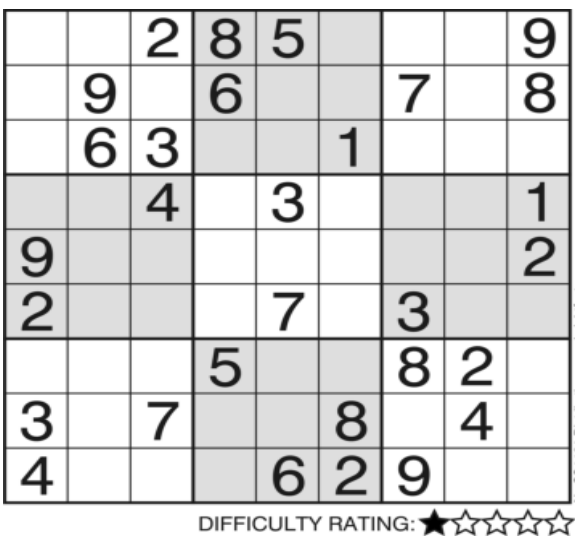
■ DOWN

- 2 Designing a new cruel type of weapon (7)
- 3 Strangely the nerd keeps everyone spellbound (10)

(set by Dr. X)

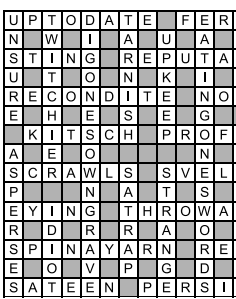
- 4 Start to extricate husband grabbed by drunkard knocking back spirit (5)
- 5 Regulates procedures to collect tax (9)
- 6 Arrests outlaw around square (4)
- 7 Renovate revolting place, suppressing cry of pain (5, 2)
- 8 Extremist, brutal, releasing new type of radiation (11)
- 10 What an artist might do to set a limit? (4, 3, 4)
- 13 Ugly pub brawl leads to bartender engaging guard for protection (6, 4)
- 15 Hasty turn to secure date (9)
- 18 Daydreaming endlessly in office, wasting time (7)
- 20 One beginning to spy on darling in a town in Vanuatu (7)
- 23 Tether ferocious Rottweiler, primarily avoiding fangs (5)
- 24 Commotion over arresting director (2-2)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12717



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Kavi advises Nimi

Rishaba Deva was an amsa avatara of Vishnu, who came to the earth to teach moksha dharma, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. Nine of his sons were yogiswaras. They could go to whichever world they pleased, whenever they wanted to. That meant they could travel without any hurdle to Deva loka, siddha loka, saadhya loka, gandharva loka, yaksha loka, manushya loka, kinnara loka and Nava loka, and to the caves where sages were doing penance.

There was a king called Nimi, who performed a yaga. When the nava yogiswaras came near the yaga sala, everyone welcomed them. Nimi said to them, "It is a great boon to be born a human being. But life is like a flash of lightning. It is difficult to think of God in this world. Rarely does one meet jnanis like you. Tell us about moksha."

The nava yogiswaras explained different aspects of Bhagavata dharma to Nimi. The first yogiswara, by name Kavi spoke first. He talked about the fears we have in this world. He said, "Those who think of the Lord's feet, will not know fear. Desiring worldly possessions makes you take the wrong path, and this makes you fearful. We should have the jnana that we should reach Him and that the way to do so is through Him. This is Bhagavata dharma. Those who know this have no sorrow. Jnanis will also think of their Acharya as God Himself. A man may see many things in his dream, but when he wakes up he finds that the reality is very different. You must think of the things of this world as things in a dream. To reach Him, think of His great deeds, sing His names, and dance thinking of Him. His devotees see water, fire, earth, stars, planets, animals, directions, trees, plants, rivers and sea as God. Such devotees develop detachment towards material possessions, and attach to His archa form."

MARKET WATCH		
	29-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,069	-1.02
US Dollar	71.80	-0.04
Gold	40,220	0.62
Brent oil	60.67	0.44

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	366.20	0.25
Asian Paints	1615.25	12.10
Axis Bank	661.15	-17.05
Bajaj Auto	2757.80	-8.95
Bajaj Finserv	6979.85	-56.10
Bajaj Finance	3299.30	-27.05
Bharti Airtel	343.50	-2.30
BPLCL	354.05	3.50
Britannia Ind	2676.85	-26.25
Cipla	465.20	0.95
Coal India	189.00	3.95
Dr Reddys Lab	2527.80	15.70
Eicher Motors	16538.00	240.55
GAIL (India)	128.50	0.45
Grasim Ind	708.85	-4.65
HCL Tech	1117.75	-6.20
HDFC	2128.45	-58.70
HDFC Bank	2226.95	-20.55
Hero MotoCorp	2547.75	-20.75
Hindalco	179.70	1.30
Hind Unilever	1832.95	4.85
Indiabulls HFL	449.30	-7.95
ICICI Bank	404.40	-8.55
IndusInd Bank	1350.55	-15.30
Bharti Infratel	258.45	9.65
Infosys	806.95	4.45
Indian OilCorp	123.65	0.75
ITC	241.20	-4.75
JSW Steel	211.95	6.20
Kotak Bank	1450.85	-32.80
L&T	1342.45	-2.20
M&M	528.00	-11.70
Maruti Suzuki	6110.20	6.80
NTPC	123.10	3.20
ONGC	123.25	2.05
PowerGrid Corp	204.80	-0.95
Reliance Ind	1241.75	-21.55
State Bank	274.50	-10.40
Sun Pharma	434.65	21.55
Tata Motors	114.30	-2.05
Tata Steel	335.55	-1.40
TCS	243.45	-5.80
Tech Mahindra	691.15	0.95
Titan	1101.80	-9.15
UltraTech Cement	4073.90	-45.90
UPL	558.35	1.35
Vedanta	135.75	3.40
Wipro	248.80	-0.45
YES Bank	57.40	-2.10
Zee Entertainment	362.10	-2.10

EXCHANGE RATES			
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 29			
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL	
US Dollar	71.60	71.92	
Euro	79.28	79.64	
British Pound	87.55	87.95	
Japanese Yen (100)	67.38	67.68	
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.07	
Swiss Franc	72.87	73.20	
Singapore Dollar	51.62	51.86	
Canadian Dollar	53.93	54.19	
Malaysian Ringgit	16.97	17.06	

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
August 29 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	52.3	(51.9)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3712	(3713)

‘Unplanned GST roll-out led to fraud of ₹45,682 crore’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The “hurried and unplanned” roll-out of the GST has not only led to lower tax collections, but has also allowed frauds worth more than ₹45,000 crore to take place, West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra wrote in a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

“I am shocked to learn about the massive fraud taking place under the GST structure,” he wrote. “The scale of this fraud has been quantified by a written response in the Rajya Sabha by the Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur, [who said] a staggering amount of ₹45,682 crore of tax fraud was detected under the GST since its roll-out.” Mr. Mitra added that he had warned the government that giving up on the concept of invoice matching would lead to widespread tax frauds.

M&M unveils Bolero City Pik-Up

Priced at ₹6.25 lakh, designed for ease of use in city traffic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

M&M has launched Bolero City Pik-Up, specially designed for city applications.

Priced at ₹6.25 lakh (ex-showroom, Bengaluru), it comes with a longer cargo/utility box.

The vehicle is a new addition to M&M’s pick-up segment of vehicles designed for manoeuvrability and driver comfort. The short bonnet design makes the vehicle take swift turns in narrow and crowded city areas. The vehicle packs a 2,523cc m2Di engine with a torque of 195 Nm providing a power of 4.6kW for better performance, said the firm.

Vikram Garga, vice-presi-

₹2,000 notes in circulation fall

₹500 notes comprised more than 50% in value terms as at end March 2019: RBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The ₹2,000 currency notes introduced during the demonetisation exercise of 2016 have dropped in circulation in the last one year ended in March 2019.

According to data in the Reserve Bank of India’s annual report, there were 3,363 million pieces of such notes in circulation as at end March 2018, which was 3.3% of the total currency in circulation, in terms of volume. In value terms, the ₹2,000 notes’ share in total currency circulation was 37.3%.

The number of pieces dropped to 3,291 million in the year ended March 2019, which was 3% in terms of volume and 31.2% in value of

Fading out			
₹2000 notes	Volume	% of total	Value (% of total)
March 2018	3,363 million	3.3	37.3
March 2019	3,291 million	3.0	31.2
₹500 notes			
March 2018	15,469 million	15.1	42.9
March 2019	21,518 million	19.8	51.0

total circulation. At the same time, the number of ₹500 notes significantly increased

to 21,518 million pieces from 15,469 million pieces during the period under review.

How the RBI ended 2018-19 with an over ₹1.23 lakh-crore surplus

The central bank recorded a huge jump in gains from foreign exchange transactions while its interest income leapfrogged

RAGHUVIR SRINIVASAN CHENNAI

Ever since the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a jaw-dropping surplus of ₹1,23,414 crore for 2018-19 (July-June accounting year), the question that has been uppermost on everyone’s mind is: how did the central bank post such a massive surplus?

In the immediate two preceding years, 2017-18 and 2016-17, the surpluses were only ₹50,004 crore and ₹30,663 crore respectively.

The RBI Annual Report for 2018-19, released on Thursday, provides the answers. There are two basic reasons for the impressive surge.

Dollar value

First, a huge ₹28,998 crore gain from foreign exchange transactions thanks mainly

Year of record income				
Reserve Bank of India’s earnings surge on the back of gains from forex transactions and higher interest				
(₹ cr.)	2017-18	2018-19	Increase	Increase (%)
Interest	73,871	1,06,837	32,966	44.62
which includes from				
Domestic bond holdings	47,968	58,343	10,375	21.62
LAF operations	(9,541)	1,046	10,587	-
Foreign bonds	23,428	27,811	4,383	18.71
Deposits foreign	11,112	18,008	6,896	62.05
Other income	4,410	86,199	81,789	854.62
which includes				
Gain/loss from forex transactions	(4,067)	28,998	33,065	-
Provision written back	367	52,618	52,251	14,237.32

Source: RBI Annual Report 2019

An expanding balance sheet			
Currency in circulation and bond holdings rise due to OMOs (₹ cr.)			
Liabilities	2017-18	2018-19	Difference (%)
Deposits	6,52,597	7,64,922	▲ 17.21
Contingency fund	2,32,108	1,96,344	▼ 15.40
CGR #	6,91,641	6,64,480	▼ 3.92
Notes in circulation	19,11,960	21,68,797	▲ 13.43
Assets			
Gold coin & bullion	1,44,023	1,67,502	▲ 16.30
Foreign investments	26,35,074	27,85,218	▲ 5.69
Domestic bonds	6,29,745	9,89,877	▲ 57.18
# Currency & Gold Revaluation Account			
Surplus jumps	(₹ cr.)	2017-18	2018-19
Centre gains as RBI fully transfers its record surplus	Income	78,281	1,93,036 *
	Expenditure	28,277	17,045
	Surplus transferred to Centre	50,004	1,75,991*

*Includes a sum of ₹52,618 crore provision written back

Equities lose ground for second straight session amid mixed cues

Expiry of derivatives contracts, subdued global trend cited

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The benchmark equity indices lost ground for the second straight session on Thursday amid expiry of the derivatives contracts, an overall subdued global trend, and weakness in the banking and financial space in the Indian market.

The 30-share Sensex lost 382.91 points, or 1.02%, to close at 37,068.93, with stocks like HDFC, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, State Bank of India, Axis Bank and Reliance Industries contributing the most to the day’s losses.

The broader Nifty ended the day at 10,948.30, down 97.80 points or 0.89%.

Market participants attributed the day’s fall to mixed global cues and the increased volatility due to expiry of the derivatives contracts.

“Volatility remained high especially in F&O counters



Top losers: Stocks such as HDFC, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank contributed the most to the day’s losses. • PAUL NORONHA

due to unwinding and rollover of the positions, while the broader indices remained under pressure,” said Ajit Mishra, vice president – research, Religare Broking.

“In the absence of any major domestic event, global cues will continue to dictate the market trend. Indications are in favour of further consolidation in Nifty, thus traders should focus more on stock selection and trade management,” he added.

Foreign investors continued to sell Indian equities with provisional numbers showing overseas investors as net sellers at ₹987 crore.

Data shows that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have sold shares worth nearly ₹17,000 crore in August. In July, FPIs were net sellers at ₹12,419 crore.

Elsewhere in Asia, while Nikkei and Kospi were down, Hang Seng managed to close with marginal gains.

ICRA sacks CEO amid regulatory probe

IL&FS got favourable rating from agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Rating agency ICRA, which had earlier sent its managing director and chief executive officer Naresh Takkar on leave amid a regulatory probe into alleged interference by its officials to ensure good rating for troubled IL&FS, has terminated the services of Mr. Takkar.

“The board of directors of ICRA Limited, at a meeting today, after due consideration and taking into account the best interests of the company and its various stakeholders, has decided to terminate the employment of Mr. Naresh Takkar as managing director and group CEO of ICRA, effective immediately,” said the agency in a filing.

“ICRA remains committed to ensuring the independence and integrity of its ratings process and sound corporate governance,” it added.

While the board will commence a search for a re-



Naresh Takkar

placement, Vipul Agarwal, who was appointed interim chief operating officer on July 1, would be responsible for the daily operations until a new CEO is appointed.

Mr. Takkar was sent on compulsory leave in July.

The statement comes almost four months after the agency – without naming IL&FS or any of its subsidiaries – disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Board of India had initiated adjudication proceedings in a matter related to rating assigned to one of its clients and its subsidiaries.

‘Total privatisation of AI needed’

‘Govt. has realised the need for its complete exit’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government will embark on ‘total’, or 100%, privatisation of Air India, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

“The government’s determination to privatise AI is a given, it’s undiluted. It should be total privatisation. We have to get the best possible deal in the shortest time possible,” Mr. Puri said at a press conference. In its earlier attempt at disinvestment of Air India, the government had sought to sell 76% of its stake and retain the remainder.

The government’s refusal to exit completely from Air India was among the main reasons why no private player came forward to participate in the privatisation process.

The Minister explained that the Group of Ministers headed by Amit

Shah was likely to meet ‘in the next few days’, to look at the proposal prepared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and reviewed by the Committee of Secretaries in a recent meeting. The Minister said there were players interested in Air India.

The government has learnt from its past mistakes and, therefore, has realised the need for a complete exit from Air India. Another major obstacle it has sought to circumvent is the huge debt size of ₹58,000 crore until March 2019.

It has hived off ₹29,000 crore of this and transferred it to a special purpose vehicle to provide relief to the airline in terms of interest it has to pay on the debt as well as to attract private players.

The Minister refused to comment if the government would retire more debt when it offers the national carrier for privatisation again.

Focus on the messaging

‘Mind your Marketing’ is a brand initiative by The Hindu BusinessLine to profile marketing professionals from across India.

What are the three secrets to successful branding? These are the necessities than secrets in marketing; First, the focus on customer experience as a marketing vehicle. The generation today takes its time to experience things in order to create a perception. Second, the message - it should match the customer requirement and their needs in the most relatable way possible and it must be consistent. Multiple platforms and channels must not lead to different messages being broadcast to the same audience. Third, ensure you use the right technology and data to reach out to the audience in the most impactful way possible.

Mrinal Mohit
Chief Operating Officer and Head of Sales & Marketing
BYJU’S The Learning App

To watch the video or read the full interview, scan the QR Code.

IN BRIEF



Flipkart to stop using single-use plastic
BENGALURU
E-tailing firm Flipkart has decided to stop using single-use plastic in packaging and move towards a 100% recycled plastic environment by March 2021. The company said it had achieved a 25% reduction in single-use plastic, as on August 1, through various endeavours. As part of its long-term sustainability initiatives, Flipkart was working on areas such as introduction of eco-friendly paper shreds, said the firm.

BSE, SUFI join hands to launch steel futures
MUMBAI
As part of attempts to enhance its commodity trading offering, BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with Steel Users Federation of India (SUF) to launch trading in steel futures. BSE and SUFI will work towards enlisting steel futures in both long and flat segments, which will bring stability, besides creating a level-playing field for all players, BSE and SUFI said in a statement.

Maple sells 6.27% in Lemon Tree for ₹273 cr.
NEW DELHI
Maple Investment on Thursday offloaded 6.27% stake of Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd. worth over ₹273 crore through open market transaction. According to NSE data, Maple Investment Ltd. sold over 4.97 crore shares at ₹55 apiece for ₹273.48 crore. In separate transactions, Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund and Van Eck Emerging Market Fund bought total shares worth ₹156.24 crore. PTI

CG Power sacks chairman Gautam Thapar

Action after probe finds governance, financial lapses; no misappropriation of funds, asserts Thapar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Gautam Thapar, chairman of CG Power and Industrial Solutions, was removed from the post with immediate effect by the company's board after an investigation by a legal firm found governance and financial lapses at the company.
Citing the current situation and recent developments, the CG Power Board of Directors, through a circular resolution passed by majority consent on Thursday, resolved to remove Mr. Thapar with immediate effect.
"This decision has been taken in the interests of the company and its stakeholders in discharge of the fiduciary responsibilities of the board," CG Power said in a filing with the exchanges.



On the defensive: No promoter or promoter entity derived any undue benefit, says Gautam Thapar. ■ GETTY IMAGES
On August 20, CG Power and Industrial Solutions disclosed to the exchanges that some unauthorised transactions had been carried out by certain employees of the company, resulting in understating of liabilities, advances and net worth. Reacting to his removal, Mr. Thapar said in a statement that the reports following the board meeting of August 19, 2019, were disheartening and did not reflect facts.
"In the interests of all sta-

keholders, including banks and financial institutions, I must say that no funds lent by banks nor any funds of CG have been misappropriated. The money has been applied with due board approval. All inter-corporate transactions have been fully authorised by the board," he said.
According to Mr. Thapar, no promoter or promoter entity had derived any undue benefit and there was 'simply no fraud'.
₹4,000 cr. paid back'
"Promoters who have paid back ₹4,000 crore to lenders since 2015 did not cheat. I had no opportunity to participate in the 'investigation' nor the resulting 'report'. I leave it to the stakeholders to draw their own conclusions from this fact. I will reaffirm this at the board meeting [on] August 30, 2019," he said.
In May, the company had sent its MD & CEO K.N. Neelkant on leave pending an investigation on "suspect, unauthorised and undisclosed transactions."
Shares hit upper circuit
CG Power shares on the BSE hit the upper circuit limit, rising 4.74% to close at ₹9.95 in a weak Mumbai market on Thursday.
This, after the company clarified that it was evaluating divestments of non-core assets and considering other fund-raising avenues, including a potential equity raise for bridging the cash flow gaps as well as working capital requirement, to avoid any business disruption.



Mining opportunities: Increased mining will cut avoidable imports of coal, says Partha S. Bhattacharyya. ■ G.N. RAO.

'100% FDI in coal will boost competitiveness'

More steps needed, says ex-CIL chief

INDRANI DUTTA
PIYUSH PANDEY
KOLKATA / MUMBAI
The Centre's announcement allowing 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the coal sector should enhance Coal India Limited's (CIL) competitiveness and efficiency, said Partha S Bhattacharyya, former CIL chairman.
Ease-of-doing business
However, he felt that while this would kindle the interest of global miners, they would need increased ease-of-doing business and time-bound approvals before they invest here.
"The government has taken a slew of measures, but more needs to be done — they look for large mines and a simplified single-window for mining leases and environmental and forest clearances," he said.
In India, it takes at least six years from getting a mine allocation to actually starting mining operations.
This has now been fixed at 66 months. The Coal Ministry is taking steps such as doing away with the need for prior approval before a State government hands over the mining lease, which typically takes 6-12 months.
"Overseas investors usually do not view such long timelines favourably," Mr. Bhattacharyya said, adding India was among the few countries that still offer opportunities in the sector as most western countries had shut down coal mines.
He added that increased mining will also lower "avoidable imports of coal that India has to make due to the prevalent demand-supply gap. CIL's production is growing at a fast clip, but in 2018-19 India spent about \$8 billion on importing 125 million tonnes of coal for non-coastal thermal plants."
Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal said, "100% FDI in mining... will send a positive signal to global investors and give a significant push to the economy."
A senior Essar official told *The Hindu*, "India is one of the largest importers of thermal coal. Government allowing 100% FDI in coal mining will attract global miners of the likes of BHP and Anglo American. This will result in FDI inflow along with updated technology, and increase India's coal production." The Coal India chairman could not be reached for his comments.

Cox & Kings gets ROC nod to defer AGM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
Tours and travel firm Cox & Kings on Thursday said it had received approval from the Registrar of Companies (ROC) for a three-month extension for its annual general meeting (AGM).
The company, which had earlier this month said it was not in a position to finalise financial results for the June 2019 quarter due to its ongoing resolution plan, had sought an extension of deadline to hold its AGM. In a filing, Cox & Kings said the ROC, Mumbai, had given it time till December 30 to hold the AGM for FY19. The meeting was scheduled to be held on September 30.

Adani Green Energy to buy Essel Group's 205 MW of solar assets

Acquisition to be made at enterprise value of ₹1,300 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has signed an agreement with Essel Group firms, Essel Green Energy Private Ltd. and Essel Infra-projects Ltd., to buy 205 MW of operating solar assets at an enterprise value of ₹1,300 crore.
The deal includes 10 operating solar PV companies with a combined capacity of 205 MW spread across Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The companies have long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) with various State electricity distribution companies.
Jayant Parimal, CEO, AGEL, said: "This is our first



brownfield acquisition of operating assets. It expands our footprint in States where we already have presence, and with our strong operational expertise, will deliver significant value to our shareholders."
In a statement, an Essel Group spokesperson said,

"Our asset divestment process is well within the purview of the agreed timelines with our esteemed lenders. The sale of the group's solar assets to AGEL is yet another positive step taken in this direction."
The transaction in cash is expected to be completed by October 15, 2019, said AGEL in a filing with the exchanges. Post completion of the acquisition, AGEL's portfolio of renewable generation capacity in India will stand at 5,500 MW, with 2,403 MW operational projects and balance 3,007 MW in the development stage.
Shares of AGEL fell 2.25% to ₹43.35 on the BSE on Thursday.

Samsonite, Panasonic in IoT tie up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Travel luggage major Samsonite International, in a strategic partnership with electronics major Panasonic Corporation, has developed a range of IoT-enabled travel suitcases that come with tracking and tracing capability.
This range will be available in the market during Diwali.
As part of the partnership, Samsonite's new product Evova Tech will have Panasonic's Seekit bluetooth tracker that will enable customers to tag and track their luggage.
The aim is to address the global consumers' need for higher security while travelling, with this product.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

A Valuable Collection

A selection of editorials that were published in *The Hindu* in 2018, these offer a 'recap' of the year that went by, from the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.

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‘Myth is indifferent to data’

Author Devdutt Pattanaik says mythology is a map of the human mind. It helps you understand the world, life and culture. It is a subjective truth based on memory

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

It is perhaps easier to find a needle in a haystack than ask Devdutt Pattanaik a question on Indian mythology that he has not answered before. For through 40-plus books, 1,000-plus columns and several talk shows, Devdutt, 48, has explored a multitude of mythological topics.

Devdutt was at The Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation in Bengaluru earlier this week to offer an insight into the setting and thought behind Ravi Varma's paintings. Devdutt discusses the master artist and more.

Excerpts:

What fascinates you about Raja Ravi Varma's art?

● It is popular. I am interested in how old ideas are expressed in modern language. In the 19th and early 20th Century, gods became more human.

There was a shift in their appearance. After Ravi Varma, they looked like you and me. Before that, they did not.

They had bigger eyes and things like that... it wasn't realism.

Did Raja Ravi Varma change the way we looked at gods?

● Yes. Because that was the time new art schools emerged. The whole idea of art changed in India. The British brought new forms of thinking. New ways of drawing emerged. There were new ways of looking at the body. Indian art was always impressionist, Ravi Varma made it natural.

Historical and mythical truths are often read as the same. What are its ramifications?

● Knowledge is a more apt word than truth here. Knowledge based on everybody's facts is history. Knowledge based on somebody's facts is myth. Myth is indifferent to data. It is a subjective truth. God, devil, heaven, hell cannot be mathematically proved. None of them have evidence.

Mythology is conceptual. History as we know it is only 150 years old. Evidence can only tell you so much.



People confuse science with belief. Science is based on doubt, and religion on faith. Faith and doubt are opposites of each other

Layer cake Comics are just the story, says Devdutt
■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

It helps you understand things in a different way. And, mythology is based on memory. And, does memory matter? If it does not, then how will tribal cultures survive? Because they don't have written texts. If you ask a Baiga tribal person, 'What is the origin of the world?' and if their answers do not match the Big Bang theory, will you dismiss them as fools?

In the *Mahabharata*, at least in the popular versions of it, we have a mother of a hundred sons and catastrophic weapons. Several political leaders have linked these fantastical elements to modern scientific inventions like in vitro fertilization and nuclear weapons, claiming that they existed in ancient India.

How do you look at these interpretations? Every culture has such stories. It cannot be called scientific. People confuse science with belief. Science is based on doubt, and religion on faith. Faith and doubt

are opposites of each other.

They are apples and oranges; you can not put them in the same basket. People who link these stories to modern science do it just to feel good about their ancestors – it is just to massage their egos.

What interests you about mythology?

● Mythology is a map of the human mind. It helps you understand the world, life and culture. Studying mythology was a hobby for a long time. Twenty years ago, it became serious.

What was your introduction to mythology?

● The usual... *Amar Chitra Katha* and other comics. It is just that I went into a deeper, academic study of it.

Do *Amar Chitra Katha* and TV shows portray a simplistic

version of Indian mythology?

● They are just telling you the stories. The magic happens when you discuss these stories and explain them, which a comic book can not do. Comics are just the first layer of the story. What we don't have in them are the layering, the interconnectivity.

People don't realise how it is narrated traditionally. When a mother is telling a story to her child, she is also adding her own emotions, dialogues and connecting it to day-to-day life, which is missing in a comic.

What do you think is the best view of mythology?

● It is a psychological phenomenon. It is not objective. It is like a metaphor. One plus one equals two in mathematics; but in poetry, it can be 11.

One of the main arguments against religion is that it has,

throughout history, led to bloodshed. Can an atheistic society be the significantly more non-violent? Was Vietnam war based on religion? Was World War I and II based on religion? Who gave us the idea that religion causes war?

There are many examples of wars being fought without religion. Somebody has taught us wrong. Why do we think academicians don't lie?

Our epics were, for a long time, passed orally until it was formalised through texts. What were its consequences?

● There are 100 texts that claim to be the same *Valmiki Ramayana*. There is nothing fixed. It is only in religions like Islam and Judaism there was a conscious attempt to remove all variations. In Hinduism, there wasn't such attempts. It is only now that Hindus who live abroad are trying to do that.

PEOPLE

Thrown into nature

A global residency programme that invites artists to engage with different geographies and their landscapes, has Delhi-based Gunjan Tyagi participating this year



For five years now, there has been a fairly quiet international initiative that's been taking place annually. Called the Global Nomadic Art Project (GNAP), it invites a dozen or so artists from around the world and sends them to a country, where they spend a fortnight creating site-specific installations, through the experience of the place's geography.

The GNAP is initiated by Yatoo, the 38-year-old Korean Nature Artists' Association. It was when the programme's 2015 edition took place in India, that Delhi-based artist Gunjan Tyagi got invited to be on board the collective.

"They approached me by noticing my work on Facebook," 33-year-old Tyagi, a graduate of the J.J. School of Art, says. In that edition, the project took the group to stark landscapes in Gujarat – they had traversed through Ahmedabad, Rajkot, and Kutch, spending time understanding the landscape, and interacting with its contours to make their art.

This year, Tyagi is back on the GNAP, which is currently ongoing in Germany and Italy, and will conclude on 8th September.

"The programme encourages us to go into nature with no tools, respond to it by creating art – we don't use any external material, just what we find there, and make everything from scratch," Tyagi says. The artists can, however, use a camera to document their process, especially in cases where they use themselves as part of an installation. But mostly pieces that they make are left there, for passers-by to stumble upon, and to have nature grow back on it.

After her first time, Tyagi was invited back, along with another Delhi-based artist Aartri Zaveri, in 2017. This time, the project took them to two countries: the leg in Lithuania had them working in places like Ventė Cape, a town known for being a hotspot for migratory birds, and Raudonė Castle, a 19th Century castle that's now used as a school. In France, they worked in, among others, a small town with troglodyte homes still preserved.

"There's no homework that I do before going on these [GNAP] trips," Tyagi says. There isn't much that she can prepare herself with, barring some basic reading up about the place. Schedules are provided in advance, but it is only when you go there, meet people living in these landscapes, and work in them that ideas really crystallise.



FOOD SPOT

In search of Bihar in NCR



RAHUL VERMA

Whether you do lunch or eat it as an accompaniment to a drink, the food from the state is robust and leaves you yearning for more

The reason I find ride-hailing services convenient, is because they help me find new food outlets. I cannot get into a cab without having a long discussion with the usually friendly driver about food.

Recently, I had a great discussion about the food of Bihar with a driver who still had family living there. I was waxing eloquent about a dish called Champaran Mutton that I had once picked up from a small Bihari outlet. I told him about the garlic bulb in the gravy that had melted and soaked in all the fragrances of the spices and the juices. He, in turn, told me about people who queued up for the meat curry of Supaul, in his home district. It is something you will always remember, he said to me. One of these days, I shall

go to Supaul and try out the meat. But all this talk of Bihari food had activated my gastric juices. Once I reached home, I went online to weigh the options, and zeroed in on a place called Khanti Bihari (KB) in Indirapuram.

Most people think that Bihari food is all about Litti and Chokha. While the two dishes – a ball of roasted dough and mashed veggies flavoured with mustard oil – are an important part of the diet, they are just one small segment of it. Bihari food includes some excellent meat dishes. The delicious Champaran Meat dish, for instance, is cooked with garlic, desiccated coconut, and black pepper.

Going in search of Khanti Bihari was almost like looking for Dr Livingstone in the forests of Africa. The address I had got was

SD 137 Plot 12 A Jaipuria Sunrise Greens, Indirapuram (Phone numbers: 7370999911, 7370888111). But it was a difficult place to locate in the concrete jungle that's Indirapuram. I asked around, and finally found a security guard who knew where it was. It's right behind the Jaipuria mall, he said – and it was. It is a small eatery, with a bench on which you can sit and eat.

From the menu, I asked for a plate of KB special Bihari Murga (₹400), Litti Meat (₹150), *Lehsuniya Sabzi* (mixed vegetables, ₹90) and *Dal Sagga* (₹110). The menu also includes *Chokha* – mashed brinjal, potato or bitter gourd – with tomatoes and onions, for ₹70) and *Machchi Sarson* (mustard fish, ₹320). They have *Moori Ghoogni* (₹40,



Finding the heartland The facade of the eatery; the KB special Bihari murgas
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"blackgram thick gravy served on a bed of puffed rice – goes well with drinks," the menu card says, helpfully) and *Chura Bhoonja* (₹40, "flaked rice, fried and served with onions and spices, no healthier company to your drinks"). For those with a healthy appetite, there is the *Pet bharua bhojan* – mutton, rice and salad, for ₹140. Our chicken dish was hot and spicy, and went well with rice. I enjoyed the gravy of the fatty mutton that came with the litti, and the mixed veggies – potatoes, peas and more – did have a distinct garlicky flavour. The dal, cooked with bits of spinach, had a pleasant whiff of ghee, and we made a good meal of it.

Next on the agenda: Supaul.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

PRODUCT

Ethical wear

Quo, a women's pret wear brand, in collaboration with PETA India, has launched a collection called In Hand, using textiles such as cotton-satin and cotton-lurex, rather than silk, wool, or leather, making it vegan-friendly. Going beyond the subtle though, are motifs designed to communicate the cruelty society meets out to animals.

For example, the monkey motif unveils the grim reality of how animals are silenced and the bird motif seeks to remind us to stop neglecting nature.

Sachin Bangera, Director of Celebrity and Public Relations, PETA India: says: "This new vegan collection is dedicated to PETA India's efforts to stop animal testing shows how easy it is to have a look that kills without killing animals."

D-162, Defence Colony, ₹3,000 upwards.

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

VANGMAYI PARAKALA



5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



FASHION

Wedding show

Parampara Serie, a wedding exhibition conceptualised and promoted by entrepreneur Ramola Bachchan is back with its 7th edition. The premium two-day exhibition that features the latest in bridal-wear, wedding gowns, jewellery, handbags, footwear, and wedding services, will see the participation of leading designers.

VENUE: The Ashok Hotel, Chanakyapuri
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



CONCERT

Indian classical

Parampara Serie, a national festival of dance and music, returns with its 23 edition. Organised by Natya Tarangini of Raja Radha Reddy & Kaushalya Reddy, this three-day festival, which starts today, features a Kuchipudi performance by the talented couple, and a vocal recital by Shubha Mudgal.

VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House
TIME: 7 p.m. onwards



FOOD

Malaysian food fest

Mallacca, the Malaysian kitchen, has organised a three-day Malaysian food fest, curated by International Chef Salil Mehta. In addition to Malaysian delicacies like Yellow Noodles with Spicy Sweet Potato Broth and Char Tao Kuih, the festival will have puppet shows, and Dragon Float, a traditional dance form.

VENUE: 32nd Milestone, Sector 15, Gurugram
TIME: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.



DANCE

Navamalika

The International Academy of Mohiniyattam is bringing the third edition of its festival series, Navamalika - An Artistic Dawn. This one-day event will feature Mohiniyattam by the disciples of Guru Jayaprabha Menon, Bharatanatyam by Snigdha Menon, and Seraikella Chhau by Shubham Acharya and Gunjan Joshi.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



THEATRE

Tara

Asmita Theatre will stage Mahesh Dattani's *Tara*, a Hindi play, this evening. Directed by Arvind Gaur, the play deals with pertinent questions with regard to medical ethics, personal relationships, and the hypocrisy that exists in Indian families. The play also highlights the issue of gender discrimination and inequality.

VENUE: Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts
TIME: 7:30 p.m.



An eye for iron

Cast iron pans are replacing non-stick cookware as home cooks embrace tools from their grandmothers' kitchens

AKILA KANNADASAN

In our household, there is no need for dumbbells. The iron dosa skillet will do. Extracting it from its secure corner is quite a task – it is so heavy that most of us have developed muscles over years of lifting it and heaving it over the stove. It has been in our kitchen for over 30 years, and is still in great shape. That's the thing with iron: so timeless that sometimes, it even outlives its user. Utensils like these have always been a part of Indian kitchens; but somewhere along the way, we got drawn to non-stick. Now, iron is making a comeback. Kayalvizhi Sriram, who runs Essential Traditions by Kayal, an online as well as standalone traditional cookware and home décor store in Chennai, says that there has been an increased demand for iron and cast iron cookware over the past year. "Iron pans are rugged; you

can use one for, say, 10 years, let it go, and pick it up after another 10 years and it will still be as good," she says, adding that using ironware on a daily basis requires patience. "Seasoning them is time-consuming." Which is perhaps why iron lost out to the lightweight non-stick. Kayalvizhi, whose store ships all over India, says that there are a lot of misconceptions surrounding iron. "It consumes less oil and people assume that only non-stick has this property," she says. Once it is seasoned well, there's no end to the number of crisp dosas a skillet can make. Not just dosas: popular food blogger Swayampurna Mishra uses her cast ironware to grill meat, and says "charring and the way the juices seep into the meat over my cast iron grill are unparalleled". She also uses it to grill vegetables such as potatoes to perfection. "It heats up quickly," she warns, adding, "Temperature control



Rock solid Iron consumes less oil and could be beneficial for the body in the long run ■ GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK, S JAMES AND SWAYAMPURNA MISHRA

is important. Using an iron pan calls for practice." **Notes of caution** Cast iron consists of alloys such as carbon and silicon, as opposed to a pure iron utensil. Handling such material, that seemingly continues to be a living, breathing being, comes with responsibilities. Such as transferring food to a serving bowl the moment cooking is done. "Iron leaves traces of itself in the food," explains Kayalvizhi. This tends to change the colour of the food, if left to sit in the pan for a long time. But Kayalvizhi feels that in the long run, this could be beneficial for the body. According to her, "customers with anaemia tell me their haemoglobin levels have improved with repeated use of ironware. I myself started using them for the same reason." Kayalvizhi attributes increased awareness on ironware to social media. "We

SEASONING FOR ALL SEASONS

Once you bring home a new cast iron or iron skillet, scrub it clean. Let it soak overnight in water that has been used to wash rice. Rub it with oil and fry onions in it and discard the batch. It is now ready to use. After usage, wash and wipe all the moisture. Before storing it, apply a generous dose of oil so that it doesn't rust.



are talking about healthy eating and going back to our roots a lot more now." While it is satisfying to touch and feel an iron skillet before buying one, not all cities have physical stores. This is where online retailers such as Rustik Craft and Tredy come in. The former is based in Jaipur. "Most of our customers were from South India until recently," says Sangeeta Sharma, who owns Rustik Craft. "But ironware is now becoming popular in North India as well." The company also manufactures and exports their wares to the US and UK. Tredy stocks utensils from villages around Salem and Madurai. It is common to see sellers bring iron pans and woks to weekly markets in India's small towns. Their sources are often artisans who have been making pans for several generations. "We source from such people," says S Aravindh from Tredy, adding that the artisans get

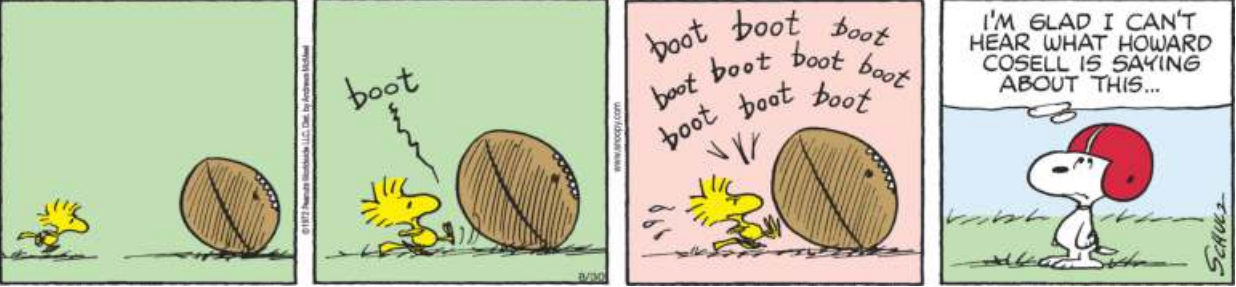


iron sheets pressed at foundries and work on the utensils with moulds in their small workshops. "They shape vessels by hand and polish the surface by removing extra metal," he explains. Pick up any iron or cast skillet in Tamil Nadu, and chances are it originated in Madurai. Kitchenware shops in the 379-year-old Pudhu Mandapam, a stone-pillared market built by king Thirumalai Nayak in the city that attracts customers from across India and even abroad. "You cannot start using it from the word go," says S Sultan, who works in the 127-year-old kitchenware store MM Abdul Kadar & Bros, pointing to a cast iron *paniyaram* pan. "Soak it overnight in water that has been used to wash rice. Then, add plenty of oil and fry onions in it." This has to be discarded. "You can then start using it. But I'd advise you to first deep-fry something before you start using it to make *paniyaram*." Shops here have their own workshops and sell pans of various sizes; skillets come even in the shape of squares. Abdul Rahman, owner of the 114-year-old Sikkander Stores, holds up the *thandavala dosaikkal* or railway track dosa skillet, which he says is made of the same iron that's used to lay train tracks. The men at Pudhu Mandapam shops say the shift to iron is easy. "Just one thing," Sultan warns, "Don't drop it on your foot."

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



Kohli's men look to sweep series

Pant's form is, however, a worry

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KINGSTON (JAMAICA)

Rishabh Pant will be desperate to pay back the faith reposed in him by the team management when India looks to steamroller West Indies with another dominant show in the second World Test championship encounter starting on Friday.

Tinkering unlikely

It is unlikely that India will be tinkering with its playing XI after a big win even though Pant's form has been a bit of a concern of late.

More than the runs scored, it is the manner of his dismissals that is causing frustration, considering that the Indian cricket establishment has invested heavily in the 21-year-old from Rourkee. His sequence of scores across formats during this current tour has been 0, 4, 65 not out, 20, 0, 24, 7.

With veteran Wriddhiman Saha back in the dressing room and the gutsy K.S. Bharat waiting in the wings, Pant can ill-afford to take things for granted.

Opener Mayank Agarwal wasn't in his element either in the first Test but it is expected that he would get another opportunity, which he rightfully deserves having worked hard in Australia.

The middle-order per-

formed admirably with Ajinkya Rahane back in form with an under-pressure half-century and a century.

Hanuma Vihari also justified his selection with a 93 in the second innings, meaning that Rohit Sharma's wait to make the side could just get a bit longer.

The pace bowling was near flawless in the first game with Ishant Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah looking menacing. Mohammed Shami was also very effective in short bursts, while Ravindra Jadeja proved his utility as an all-rounder.

For West Indies, there hasn't been much to write home about as none of its players even got a half-century in two innings. The saving grace for them was the new-ball pair of Shannon Gabriel and Kemar Roach, who bowled their hearts out.

The teams (from): India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), K.L. Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R. Ashwin, Umesh Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

West Indies: Jason Holder (Capt.), Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shamarr Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Rahkeem Cornwall, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Keemo Paul and Kemar Roach.

Match starts at 8 p.m. IST.



Flip side: The manner of Rishabh Pant's dismissals marked a downside to India's dominant show in the first Test. ■AP

Bumrah's spell in first Test one of the best by an Indian pacer: Arun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KINGSTON (JAMAICA)

Jasprit Bumrah's situational awareness is unmatched and his five-wicket haul in the second innings of the opening Test against the West Indies is one of the "best spells of fast bowling" by an Indian, feels the team's bowling coach Bharath Arun.

Bumrah, who was given a month's break after the World Cup, looked rusty in the first innings in Antigua but came back to claim five five for seven in 8 overs as India thrashed West Indies by

318 runs in the opening World Test Championship match.

"Bumrah is a thinking bowler. He is aware of situations and adjusts himself beautifully. If you see the lengths that he bowled in the second innings, he pitched the ball up and was getting appreciable movements," Arun said.

"That's the best spell of fast bowling I have seen from an Indian in a long, long time," he added.

For Arun, a coach's priority is to ensure that execu-

tion part is perfect as the outcome is then taken care of.

"Well, wickets are the outcome but I am not always looking at the outcome. I am looking at the execution part and that was exactly what was discussed with Bumrah after the first innings," Arun said. "His execution (in the first innings) was a trifle short and with his style of bowling, he should have pitched it up. Wickets were not a concern as the process of bowling right lengths will eventually get you wickets."

No Dhoni, but Hardik is back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who was rested for the tour of the West Indies because of lower-back issues, has been picked for the three-match T20I series to be played against South Africa.

Hardik has replaced seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar who was in the team for the T20I series against the West Indies.

V.V. Subrahmanyam reports from Hyderabad

BCCI senior selection committee chairman M.S.K. Prasad informed *The Hindu* that M.S. Dhoni was not considered, as the panel preferred to give more chances

to the young Rishabh Pant. "We will focus on him for some more time," he said.

Prasad added that Dhoni has himself not responded to them about his plans.

The chairman refused to engage in any debate on the subject.

The squad:

Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Krunal Pandya, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, and Navdeep Saini.

The schedule:

Sept. 15, Dharamshala; Sept. 18, Mohali; Sept. 22, Bengaluru.



M.S. Dhoni.

■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dube and Axar star for India-A

The former takes advantage of three reprieves; Chahal claims five

SA-A VS INDIA-A

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The fielding from both sides was slipshod and catches were put down fairly regularly, but in the end, the three catches which South Africa-A dropped off Shivam Dube cost it the match.

Dube profited from the reprieves to carve out a game-changing innings of 79 not out (60b, 3x4, 6x6).

His hard-hitting knock and an unbroken 121-run seventh-wicket stand with an equally belligerent Axar Patel (60 not out, 36b, 6x4, 3x6) was the cornerstone of India-A's emphatic 69-run win in the opening unofficial one-day cricket match at the Sports Hub here on Thursday.

Dropped on three, 13 and 66, Dube's charge saw India-A amass 327 for six in a match reduced to 47 overs due to wet outfield.

South Africa conceded 105 runs in the last eight ov-



Making it count: Shivam Dube carved out a game-changing innings of 79 not out. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ers as both Dube and Axar cut loose.

Late assault

The visitors, till the late assault from the southpaws, were very much in the game after left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin put in a tidy shift in the middle overs to straggle the run-rate.

After Shubman Gill's blaz-

ing start, India-A lost three quick wickets and then, Manish Pandey (39) and Ishan Kishan (37) repaired the damage with a 75-run stand for fifth wicket. They both departed in quick succession to give South Africa-A the advantage.

However, profligate bowling by medium-pacers Junior Dala and Beuran Hen-

dricks in the death overs was cannon fodder for both Axar and Dube, who muscled the ball over the fence with ease.

South Africa-A needed a bright start from its openers but Janneman Malan and Reeza Hendricks were circumspect.

Damage

Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Krunal Pandya did the initial damage to derail the chase. Hendricks (110), who rode his luck, and Zondol (30) added 66 for the fourth wicket.

But the run-rate kept increasing and it was all over when Hendricks holed out after reaching his century.

Heinrich Klaassen struck a few lusty blows to minimise the damage.

The scores: India-A 327 for six in 47 overs (Shubman Gill 46, Anmolpreet Singh 29, Manish Pandey 39, Ishan Kishan 37, Shiva,m Dube 79 n.o.) bt South Africa-A 258 in 45 overs (Reeza Hendricks 110, Khaya Zondo 30, Heinrich Klaassen 58, Yuzvendra Chahal five for 47).

Akshath puts India Green in command

DULEEP TROPHY

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

An assured 146 by opener Akshath Reddy put India Green in a commanding position on the opening day of its Duleep Trophy clash with India Red.

Akshath's 15th First Class hundred, and his 137-run stand for the third wicket with Siddhesh Lad, helped lay the foundation for a massive total after Green elected to bat. At stumps at the Alur grounds on Thursday, Green was 308 for four, with Priyam Garg and Akshay Wadkar at the crease.

Blunting the attack

Akshath fell in the final half-hour of the day's play, caught on the mid-wicket boundary slog-sweeping Akshay Wakhare. It brought to an end his 248-ball effort, after he had firmly blunted the Red attack all day. "I missed an opportunity there," he said later. "There were only six overs left. I wanted to keep the shot down but the ball was



Giving it the treatment: Akshath Reddy came up with an assured century against India Red. ■FILE PHOTO

too full and it went up."

Akshath had only ever looked in trouble in the morning, when Jaydev Unadkat, Sandeep Warrier and Avesh Khan had beaten the bat several times during a testing first hour. He dropped anchor thereafter, and was not distracted even by the multiple stoppages to get the ball changed.

The last domestic season was Akshath's most produc-

covers for four. Sarwate was later neatly dispatched over the sight-screen, as was part-timer Mahipal Lomror. Akshath completed his hundred (off 174 balls) with a boundary off Sarwate, stepping out to the left-arm spinner before drilling him through mid-wicket.

At the other end, fellow opener Faiz Fazal had fallen for 18, caught at fine-leg pulling Avesh. Dhruv Shorey made 44 before edging the Madhya Pradesh paceman behind, shortly after lunch. Lad looked confident during his 64, which included two huge sixes, one of which landed outside the compound. The Mumbai batsman eventually perished at attempting another big shot.

India Green clearly had a plan against Wakhare and Sarwate, not wanting either spinner to settle. The two bowlers, who toiled hard, could be in for another long day under the sun.

The scores: India Green 308 for four in 90 overs (Akshath Reddy 146, Siddesh Lad 64, Dhruv Shorey 44, Priyam Garg 30 batting) vs India Red.

Top stars have it tough

Rain affects Wednesday's schedule

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Serena Williams nearly crashed out of the rain-hit US Open on Wednesday while top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic battled through shoulder pain and Roger Federer advanced despite a weak start.

Eighth seed Serena, seeking her 24th career Grand Slam title to match Margaret Court's all-time record, got a scare before ousting 17-year-old US wildcard Caty McNally 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.

"I survived tonight. I'm not too pleased with the way I played at all," said Serena. Djokovic, winner of four of the past five Slam titles, was treated for a sore left shoulder throughout his 6-4, 7-6(3), 6-1 victory over Argentina's 56th-ranked Juan Ignacio Londero.

Djokovic's injury casts grave doubts on his bid to be the first US Open repeat winner since Federer won from 2004-2008, admitting he wondered if he would even get through the first set. Federer, who last tri-

umphed here in 2008, rallied to beat 99th-ranked Bosnian Damir Dzumhur 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

The 38-year-old Swiss third seed, who also dropped the first set against Indian qualifier Sumit Nagal in his opener, answered the wake-up call despite 17 first-set unforced errors.

There were wins for seventh seed Kei Nishikori, French Open champion Ashleigh Barty and third seed Karolina Pliskova. However, seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams crashed out.

Kvitova knocked out

On Thursday, Czech sixth seed Petra Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, was knocked out by Germany's 88th-ranked Andrea Petkovic 6-4, 6-4.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Thursday: Second round: Men: 15-David Goffin (Bel) bt 6-Gregoire Barrere (Fra) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; **Women:** Andrea Petkovic (Ger) bt 6-Petra Kvitova (Cze) 6-4, 6-4.

Wednesday: Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (Arg) 6-4, 7-6(3), 6-1; 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Damir Dzumhur (Bih) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; 7-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt



Petkovic... packing a punch.

■AP

was knocked out by Germany's 88th-ranked Andrea Petkovic 6-4, 6-4.

Bradley Klahn (USA) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Women: 5-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Venus Williams (USA) 6-4, 6-4; 10-Madison Keys (USA) bt Zhu Lin (Chn) 6-4, 6-1; 3-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Mariam Bolkvadze (Geo) 6-1, 6-4; 8-Serena Williams (USA) bt Caty McNally (USA) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; 2-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Lauren Davis (USA) 6-2, 7-6(2).

EXCLUSIVE

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Fast-rising Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal was ecstatic when he was drawn to meet the legendary Roger Federer in the opening round at the U.S. Open. Nagal caused a flutter by getting the better of the legend in the first set before going down in four. The 22-year old shared his experience in an interview with *The Hindu*. Excerpts:

Congrats on your match on Monday. How would you assess yourself?

First of all, thank you. Coming from not playing too many hardcourt tournaments this year and then qualifying for a slam, beating really good players in the qualifiers [qualifying rounds], then playing Federer and taking a set off him, playing in the biggest stadium in tennis history... I think I couldn't have asked for more. Overall, I was happy with my performance, with the tournament, with the way I



Guts and gumption: Sumit Nagal was hardly overawed either by the big stage or the celebrated opponent. ■AFP

competed.

How was the transition from clay to hardcourt? I didn't have too much time to practise on hardcourt as when I was playing at Hamburg, [in] my last tournament I fell on my ankle, it was not in great shape so I had to take a few weeks off and had to pull out of the next two tournaments after Hamburg. But since then I tried whatever I could. I tried to spend as much time on the hardcourt, but I didn't play great tennis but I was competing a lot, I was

fighting every point. I think that's what matters.

In 2018 you were ranked in the 400s after injuries and match losses. You're now ranked 190 and on the first night of the Open you took the first set from Federer. Did you think that would happen?

The funny part with tennis is, anything is possible. You do not know what is going to happen the next morning because you wake up and feel amazing and the other person can feel like [it's] his worst day ever. Tennis is a

sport – as you have seen – [in which] a lot of people who have done amazing in a week or two weeks, they just continue their run. So you always, always keep trying, keep giving yourself an opportunity and you never know where you are going to end up.

Tell us about the moment you heard you'd be playing Federer – apparently you got a text message?

Yes, I got a text message from my coach saying you are playing Federer and I was so, so happy and I was like, "Yes!". Because when we saw the draw on Thursday and we saw that Federer was going to play a qualifier, I wanted so bad to play him. And this is what I got. So it was amazing, what happened that night.

Apart from the fact that it was Federer you were playing, what specifically stood out for you about Monday's match?

Ah, the crowd. The crowd and atmosphere. You cannot complain about it. It is phenomenal to play in New York City, in Flushing Meadows, under those big lights, so

many thousands of people cheering, making noise. It's just a great, great, great feeling.

You chose tennis in a land of cricket...

I used to play a lot of cricket when I was young. I used to spend a lot of hours on cricket. But my dad was not too happy about it, he wanted me to play an individual sport and that's how I got into tennis.

Meeting Mahesh Bhupathi was a turning point in your journey...

Meeting Mahesh was a turning point. He has played a big role in my tennis, in my life. He has been a part of my journey for the past twelve years. I have been playing tennis for fourteen years, so it does affect [things] a lot. He has always been there... whenever I needed funding, he would find whatever he could to support me.

What next for you?

I am planning to play some tournaments on clay in Europe and South America and then maybe finish the year with some hardcourt tournaments in China and India.

Honouring the best in Indian sport

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the country's leading sports awards to achievers across disciplines, on the occasion of the National Sports Day, at the Rashtrapathi Bhawan on Thursday



Highest accolade: Paralympic silver-medallist Deepa Malik being conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna by the President Ram Nath Kovind.



Recognising excellence: The President presenting the Dronacharya Award to **Vimal Kumar** (badminton) and **Merzban Patel** (hockey), Arjuna Awards to **Gaurav Gill** (motorsports), **Swapna Barman** (athletics), **Sai Praneth** (badminton) and **Pooja Dhandha** (wrestling) and Dhyana Chand Award to **Manuel Fredricks** (hockey).

OTHER AWARDEES

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna: Bajrang Punia (wrestling)-DNA.
Dronacharya: Regular category: Mohinder Singh Dhillion (athletics)-DNA, Sandeep Gupta (table tennis).
Lifetime category: Rambir

Singh Khokar (kabaddi), Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket)

Arjuna: S. Bhaskaran (body building), Sonia Lather (boxing), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (hockey), Ajay Thakur (kabaddi),

Pramod Bhagat (para sports, badminton), Harmeet Desai (table tennis), Fouaad Mirza (equestrian), Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (football), Poonam Yadav (cricket), Simran Singh Shergill (polo), Ravindra Jadeja (cricket)-

DNA, Mohammed Anas (athletics)-DNA, Anjum Moudgil (shooting)-DNA, Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (athletics)-DNA, Sundar Singh Gurjar (para sports, athletics)-DNA
Dhyana Chand: Arup Basak (table tennis), Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis), C. Lalremsanga (archery),
Tenzing Norgay National adventure: Aparna

Kumar, Late Shri Dipankar Ghosh and K. Manikandan (all land adventure); Prabhat Raju Koli (water adventure); Rameshwar Jangra (air adventure); Wangchuk

Sherpa (lifetime achievement)
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation and Go Sports Foundation (identification and nurturing of budding and young talent); Rayalaseema Development Trust (sports for development)

DNA: DID NOT ATTEND

Sports scribes left clueless

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Earning a National sports award is difficult. Covering the awards function, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, is no less. At least, that is how the experience has been for the past few years. On Thursday, it hit a new low. The mainstream sports journalists were left clueless in the absence of any official communication pertaining to the ceremony. In a surprise departure from the past, the Press Information Bureau chose

to ignore those who cover sportspersons and their performance round the year. Instead, the PIB invited only those who were on its list of accredited correspondents. Here too, not all were included. The process in the past involved non-accredited sports journalists to make a request to cover the ceremony and the PIB always issued the invitation cards. However, this year, there seems to have been total secrecy over the issuance

of invitations. Almost all the mainstream dailies stood ignored. The saving grace came from the Sports Authority of India. On its part, SAI continued with its tradition of extending invitations to all National Sports Day-related functions, including the Fit India Movement launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indira Gandhi Stadium. Here, arrangements were made even for non-PIB accredited correspondents.

Van Dijk, Bronze win top UEFA prize

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONACO

Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk won the UEFA Men's Player of the Year award on Thursday, edging out Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, while Lucy Bronze took the women's prize. Dutchman Van Dijk starred as Liverpool won its sixth European Cup last season with a final victory over Tottenham in Madrid. "I need to thank my teammates, without them I would not have achieved what I have achieved," Van Dijk told BT Sport. "It's been a long road and it's part of my journey. I'm very proud to get this trophy. It's credit to everyone who has helped me."

The 28-year-old is the first defender to win the award since the inaugural edition in 2010-11. Van Dijk was also part of the Netherlands side which lost the inaugural Nations League final. Full-back Bronze won the Women's Champions League title with Lyon before helping England reach the women's World Cup semifinals. The 27-year-old Bronze is the first English player to win either of the UEFA player of the year titles.



Top moment: Virgil van Dijk poses with his UEFA Men's Player of the Year and Defender of the Season awards.

UEFA Champions League Group Stage draw			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
Paris St-Germain	FRA	Bayern Munich	GER
Real Madrid	ESP	Tottenham	ENG
Club Brugge	BEL	Olympiacos	GRE
Galatasaray	TUR	Red Star Belgrade	SRB
GROUP C		GROUP D	
Manchester City	ENG	Juventus	ITA
Shakhtar	UKR	Atletico Madrid	ESP
Dinamo Zagreb	CRO	Leverkusen	GER
Atalanta	ITA	Lokomotiv	RUS
GROUP E		GROUP F	
Liverpool	ENG	Barcelona	ESP
Napoli	ITA	Dortmund	GER
RB Salzburg	AUT	Internazionale	ITA
Genk	BEL	Slavia Prague	CZE
GROUP G		GROUP H	
Zenit	RUS	Chelsea	ENG
Benfica	POR	Ajax	NED
Olympique Lyon	FRA	Valencia	ESP
RB Leipzig	GER	LOSC Lille	FRA
MATCH DATES			
Sep 17/18, Oct 1/2, Oct 22/23, Nov 5/6, Nov 26/27, Dec 10/11			
Source: UEFA Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS			

K.P. Bhaskar back as Delhi coach

Rajkumar Sharma will be in charge of bowling

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

K. P. Bhaskar will be Delhi's coach this season, while Virat Kohli's childhood mentor Rajkumar Sharma has been named the bowling coach. The announcement was made by the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) here on Thursday. The two-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of Yashpal Sharma and Sunil Valson, which conducted the interviews, found Bhaskar's credentials for the post impeccable. It was observed that Bhaskar had performed well as head coach when Delhi finished runner-up to Vidarbha in 2018. Bhaskar had reapplied for the job last season but the CAC, comprising Virender Sehwag, Aakash Chopra and Rahul Sanghvi, thought it prudent to bring in Mithun Manhas as Delhi's coach. The team fared poorly and the DDCA had to fall back on Bhaskar for this season since Manhas did not apply for the job. Others in the fray were Manoj Prabhakar, Hitesh Sharma, Shankar Saini and N. S. Negi. Having handled various assignments handed to him by the Board of Control



K.P. Bhaskar.



Rajkumar Sharma.

for Cricket in India (BCCI), including stints at the National Cricket Academy, Bhaskar took up the challenge of guiding Uttarakhand last season when the team made its First Class debut. Bhaskar delivered by ensuring Uttarakhand qualified for the knockouts where it lost to Vidarbha in the quarterfinals, the eventual Ranji Trophy champion. Bhaskar said, "I am very happy to be appointed as the head coach. It would be nice to take Delhi forward, to make it a powerhouse of domestic cricket that consistently challenges and wins major titles. I am looking forward once again to work with the talented bunch of cricketers that we have. I am thankful to the CAC for giving me this opportunity."

Aware of expectations Rajkumar Sharma, who was Delhi's under-23 coach in 2018 when it won the national title, also returns to the team after a season's gap. "I am really excited to be part of the coaching set up for the senior team. I am aware of the expectations that come along with me and I will work hard with the bowling unit to deliver results this season. I have worked closely with most Delhi boys when I was part of age-group teams and that would stand me in good stead," Sharma said on his new role. Bhaskar and Sharma have Atul Wassan as chairman of the senior selection committee. All three are products of the iconic Sonnet Cricket Club.

Bottas will continue to be Hamilton's partner; Ocon for Renault

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Valtteri Bottas will remain as Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes teammate next year while Esteban Ocon will replace Nico Hulkenberg at Renault, the teams announced on Thursday. Frenchman Ocon's return to a race seat after a season spent as test and reserve driver with Mercedes was announced soon after champion Mercedes had decided to give Bottas a fourth year alongside five-time champion Hamilton. **Busy day** On a busy first day back after the European summer shut-

down, the Formula One paddock was alive with transfer talk and other speculation, including a likely return to action by Marcus Ericsson at Alfa Romeo ahead of the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday. Mercedes has exercised an option to retain Bottas, who turned 30 on Wednesday. Since joining Mercedes in 2017, the Finn has won five Grands Prix and is second by 62 points behind Hamilton in this year's title race. "My overall target is to become Formula One world champion. I believe that on paper, and from my experience with the team, Mercedes is the best option for me to achieve that goal in



Solid backing: Hamilton has called Mercedes' decision to retain Bottas a smart one.

2020," said Bottas. "We have a great working relationship, Valtteri and I, and he's constantly improving," said Hamilton. "I think

it was a smart decision from the team, to be honest... we get on well both outside and on the track." Formula One also an-

nounced a record 22-race season next year with Vietnam joining the championship and the Dutch Grand Prix making its return to delight Max Verstappen and his fans at the iconic Zandvoort circuit. But Red Bull's gifted young Dutch driver won't have the chance to repeat last month's success at Hockenheim with the German Grand Prix dropped from F1's draft calendar released on Thursday. Germany's four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel described the loss of his home race as "a great pity".

Saidan shocks Unique Model in the summit clash

Romalsawma, Hunmawia score in the Mizoram side's maiden title win

SUBROTO CUP

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Saidan Secondary School (Mizoram) dethroned Unique Model Academy (Manipur) 2-0 to win the Diamond Jubilee edition of the Subroto Cup international football tournament in the sub-junior boys' (under-14) category. This was Saidan's maiden title. Saidan also bagged the best team award while B. Romalsawma, from the winning team, was adjudged the 'best player' of the tournament. The best goalkeeper award went to Manipur's Bijando. The Mizoram side showed its attacking intent right from the start and six minutes into the contest, Romalsawma



Cup of joy: Saidan Secondary School, the champion.

put the team ahead. With two minutes left in the first

half, Saidan skipper Hunmawia missed a penalty.

In the second half, Hunmawia made amends for the

miss, scoring his 14th goal of the tournament with seven minutes left for the final whistle.

Confidence booster

Hunmawia said later, "When I missed the penalty, I was feeling very nervous, but at half-time, the coach boosted my confidence and told me to just attack." Manipur's Th. Ibouchouba was feeling dejected after the loss. "We tried really hard to come back into the match after we saved the penalty, but that didn't happen because their defence was strong. "We will practice hard and win the cup next time." Lalbulliana of Saidan was declared the 'best coach' while the fairplay award went to Our Lady Mount Carmel High School (Goa).

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
LUCKNOW

India's opponent for the two-leg Olympic qualifier and a fight for a spot at the Tokyo Games would be confirmed on September 9 after a live draw at the FIH headquarters in Lausanne with a likely clash at home against Pakistan, as reported first by The Hindu. The draw, to be conducted by FIH CEO Thierry Weil, would see 14 teams drawn into seven pairs with the winners on aggregate going to Tokyo in 2020. The FIH on Thursday released the list of teams making the cut for the qualifiers as per current world rankings, with the top-eight being host teams. However, with the Ocea-

nia Cup ending on September 8, FIH admitted the rankings might change although that would have little effect on the Indian teams' standings or hosting status. "Since either Australia or New Zealand will qualify directly to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 as winners of the Oceania Cup, the group of 'host teams' will be reduced to seven teams... FIH will confirm all the teams involved in the draw, as well as their final ranking order, on September 8 after the publication of the FIH World Rankings," it said in a statement. As per the current FIH order, Indian men are placed third while Pakistan is 13th (excluding the teams already qualified). With both New Zealand and Australia in the top-half, India's position in top-three is likely to be safe.

The bottom half is likely to remain unchanged, keeping Pakistan in the bottom-three and in with a chance to draw India. Among the women, India is currently placed seventh but would gain a spot regardless of who wins the Oceania Cup, and stay on course to host the tie. **List of qualified teams (in current rankings order): Men: Host teams:** 1. Australia, 2. the Netherlands, 3. India, 4. Germany, 5. Great Britain, 6. Spain, 7. New Zealand, 8. Canada. **Way teams:** 9. Malaysia, 10. France, 11. Ireland, 12. Korea, 13. Pakistan, 14. Austria, 15. Egypt. **Women: Host teams:** 1. Australia, 2. Germany, 3. Great Britain, 4. Spain, 5. New Zealand, 6. Ireland, 7. India, 8. China. **Way teams:** 9. Korea, 10. Belgium, 11. USA, 12. Canada, 13. Italy, 14. Chile, 15. Russia.



IN BRIEF

Speed racer Jessi Combs dies trying to set record
LOS ANGELES
Racing driver Jessi Combs, considered the “fastest woman on four wheels,” was killed in a car accident trying to break her own record, police said. Combs’s jet car crashed on Tuesday in the Alvord Desert in the U.S. Her 2013 record was 641 km per hour. AFP



Pinterest to combat health misinformation
NEW YORK
Pinterest Inc users searching for vaccine-related information will be shown results from leading public health groups, in an effort to combat inaccurate data and fake news. The social media company will not show ads or other users’ posts for such searches, as they may contain misinformation. REUTERS



Britain’s Princess Charlotte is off to school
LONDON
Britain’s Princess Charlotte will soon be starting school, and she’ll have her older brother to help her get used to a new place. Kensington Palace said on Thursday that the four-year-old princess will attend her first day of school on September 5. Charlotte and six-year-old Prince George will study at Thomas’s Battersea school in London. AP

Skull found in Ethiopia yields clues on how humans evolved

The watershed discovery rivals the famous Lucy skeleton in importance

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Scientists have announced the landmark discovery in Ethiopia of a nearly complete skull of an early human ancestor that lived 3.8 million years ago, a species boasting an intriguing mixture of ape-like and human-like characteristics.

The fossil dubbed MRD, which provides insight into a pivotal period for the evolutionary lineage that eventually led to modern humans, belongs to the species *Australopithecus anamensis*, which first appeared roughly 4.2 million years ago.

This species is considered the direct ancestor of *Australopithecus afarensis*, the species best known from the famous partial skeleton nicknamed ‘Lucy’ unearthed in 1974, about 56 km from the site in the Afar region of Ethiopia where the MRD skull was found in 2016. Lucy dates from about 3.2 million years ago.

MRD and Lucy together stand as watershed fossils for illuminating early human ancestors.

“This is once-in-a-lifetime discovery, and there is nothing more exciting than that,” said Cleveland Museum of Natural History palaeoanthropologist Yohannes Haile-Selassie, a leader of the research published in the journal *Nature*. “We are talking about the most complete cranium of an early human ancestor ever found in the fossil record older than 3 million years.”

Until now, the only *Australopithecus anamensis* cranial remains were isolated jaw fragments and teeth, making it difficult to fully understand the species. The



Prehistoric pantheon: A partial facial reconstruction of a 3.8-million-year-old *Australopithecus* skull. ■ CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY/MATT CROW/AFP

What we see in the new cranium is like a primitive face
YOHANNES HAILE-SELASSIE
Palaeoanthropologist

skull is critical for learning about a species’ diet, brain size and facial appearance.

The discovery finally allows scientists “to put a face to the name” regarding *Australopithecus anamensis*, said palaeoanthropologist and study co-author Stephanie Melillo of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. “The anatomical features in this skull help us to characterise this species, which in turn inform our ideas about the evolutionary relationships among species,” Ms. Melillo added.

Smaller than humans
MRD’s species, which was bipedal but may also have been able to move around in trees, was much smaller than modern humans.

Its skull, found about 550 km northeast of Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa, measures about 8 inches front to back and 4.5 inches wide. Previous research suggested

the species reached about 5 feet tall, but the researchers did not give a height estimate for this individual, apparently an adult male.

The upper jaw, sticking out of the ground, was the first piece found, leading to the recovery of the rest of the skull.

“What we see in the new cranium is like a primitive face,” Mr. Haile-Selassie said.

Robustly built

It had a robustly built and long face with protrusive jaws and a well-developed “sagittal crest”, a ridge of bone atop the head indicating strong jaw muscles. The researchers said it apparently inhabited arid shrubland near a river delta and lake.

It hails from a time between 4.1 million and 3.6 million years ago when early human ancestor fossils are exceptionally scarce.

The evolutionary lineage that led to people split from the chimpanzee lineage roughly 6 million to 7 million years ago, gradually acquiring traits such as bipedal walking, flatter face and increased brain size through a succession of species. *Homo*

sapiens appeared roughly 300,000 years ago in Africa.

In scientific parlance, MRD’s species was a hominin, a group consisting of modern humans, extinct human species and immediate ancestors including various *Australopithecus* species. MRD’s skull shows a combination of primitive traits seen in older species as well as characteristics resembling those in later hominins.

In MRD, there are some primitive features similar to those in an earlier group called *Sahelanthropus*, including a long and narrow shape of the braincase and the shape of the location on the back of the skull where the neck muscles attach.

MRD also shows a reduction in canine size from older species, though these teeth are still larger than Lucy’s species, as canine size progressively diminished among later hominins. Some aspects of its face foreshadowed traits in later species such as the structure of the cheek bones, which anchor important chewing muscles.

The MRD fossil’s age indicates this species co-existed for approximately 100,000 years with Lucy’s species, challenging previous notions that the earlier species had evolved into the later one with no overlap.

“The fact that these two very closely related species were overlapping both temporally and spatially brings up new questions about whether they were competing for resources like food or space,” Ms. Melillo said.

“What we’re seeing here is that our evolution was not entirely characterised by a linear transformation from one species to another,” Mr. Haile-Selassie added.



Keep rollin': Eight-year-old rapper Waqas Baloch performing on a street in Karachi. ■ AFP

Straight outta Karachi: rap music gets a unique spin

Grim reality spawns a new generation of hip hop artists

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KARACHI

Haunted by gang violence and poverty for decades, Lyari was once considered one of Pakistan’s most dangerous areas, but those grim realities also inspired a generation of artists and spawned a burgeoning hip hop scene.

With its close proximity to the sea and history of smuggling, the largely ethnic Balochi neighbourhood in Karachi stands apart for its history of violence and lawlessness.

“Lyari was a notorious place because of the gangs and the war. It was almost impossible for outsiders to even think about entering,” explains resident and new rapper Mohammad Omar.

But in recent years, the gangs have been brought to heel following a heavy-handed operation by paramilitary forces that kicked off in 2013 and saw the streets turned into virtual war zones.

But the worst of the violence has abated, and an increase in security has led to flowering creativity.

The embattled neighbourhood now clings fiercely to its reputation for producing top footballers, iron-chinned boxers, and socially conscious rappers.

Street performance

The rise of hip hop in Lyari mirrors the genre’s own birth decades ago in New York’s Bronx borough, where it largely centred around street performances and featured lyrics that addressed social ills and life in urban ghettos. Hip hop became a global phenomenon, but the genre initially failed to generate much traction in Pakistan where music fans tended to listen to pop, Bollywood soundtracks or traditional Sufi music.

The occasional forays by Pakistani musicians into hip hop over the years largely served as interludes in pop

songs. Not so in Lyari where rappers were influenced by the likes of Tupac Shakur and looked to their own experiences for lyrical inspiration. “In other cities and provinces, there’s rap but it’s mostly about beautiful women and luxury cars,” says producer Qammar Anwar Baloch. “We are showing reality.”

With little performance space available, Lyari’s rappers have largely turned to the Internet to share their clips of their songs, which generate millions of views online.

“I want to highlight the issues in Karachi and my own area in Lyari,” explains eight-year-old rapper Waqas Baloch, who released a video under the moniker Thousand earlier this year.

Cleric Jameel Ahmed says, “It is far better than drugs, booze and other such menaces. Music is helping them stay away from such things.”

Controversial Tibetan monk, accused of sexual abuse, is dead

He authored a best-selling book on Buddhist wisdom

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

A controversial Tibetan monk whose best-selling book on Buddhist wisdom was overshadowed by multiple allegations of sexual abuse has died in Thailand, his official social media account reported.

Sogyal Rinpoche, a former close friend of the Dalai Lama, suffered a pulmonary embolism and “left this world” on Wednesday, a post on his Facebook page said.

“The doctors did everything they could but could not restore the function of his heart... Rinpoche is now resting in meditation,” it said.

Rinpoche penned the best-selling *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* in 1992, which became a huge



Sogyal Rinpoche

hit in the West with people disillusioned with their lifestyles.

It explored birth, karma, death and reincarnation, and how to train the mind through meditation.

Born in 1947 in Tibet, Sogyal Lakar Rinpoche was recognised as the reincarnation of Terton Sogyal, a teacher of the 13th Dalai La-

ma. In the 1970s, he became more prominent internationally and founded Rigpa, a network of more than 100 spiritual centres, many of them in France.

He was pushed out of the organisation in 2017 after former students accused him of physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse. The current Dalai Lama came out against his former friend, calling him “disgraced”.

Rinpoche always denied the allegations, but an independent inquiry upheld many of the complaints and he withdrew from public life.

His Facebook page was flooded on Thursday with messages that touched on reincarnation. “Sogyal Rinpoche is headed for a pretty unpleasant rebirth,” a Twitter user said.

Show time



Glitz and glamour: Actors Liv Tyler, Brad Pitt, Ruth Negga and director James Gray attend the *Ad Astra* photocall during the 76th Venice Film Festival in Venice on Thursday. ■ VITTORIO ZUNINO CELOTTO/GETTY IMAGES

Measles cases 3 times more than last year

REUTERS
GENEVA

Every region in the world, except the Americas, is experiencing an increase in the number of cases of measles, a vaccine-preventable disease that can kill or disable children, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday.

Kate O’Brien, director of WHO’s department of immunisation, put the blame on weak health systems and misinformation about vaccines, and called on social media outlets and communities to make sure information on preventing the highly contagious disease was accurate.

Nearly three times as many cases were reported from January to July this year than in the same period in 2018, the WHO said.

Nearly 3,65,000 cases have been reported globally this year.

Two new species of eels discovered

The marine creatures thrive in shallow waters but are also found a bit deeper

SIB KUMAR DAS
BERHAMPUR

Two new species of marine eel were discovered and documented this month by the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Gopalpur in Odisha.

One of them is a short brown unpatterned moray eel now named *Gymnothorax andamanensis*. Two specimens of this eel were caught in two-metre-deep waters off the south Andaman coast by J. Praveenraj of the Division of Fisheries Science, ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, on March 18. It had been sent to ZSI Gopalpur for identification.

Anil Mohapatra, a scientist at Gopalpur ZSI, and his



Gymnothorax andamanensis and *Gymnothorax smithi*.

colleague Swarup Ranjan, after a detailed study, identified the specimens as a complete new species.

The discovery was reported in scientific journals.

Till now, 10 species of short brown unpatterned moray eels have been discovered in the world, out of which two were found in Indian waters. With this new discovery, the number has increased to three.

Similarly, a new white-

spotted moray eel, now named *Gymnothorax smithi* has also been identified by Gopalpur’s ZSI scientists. Its first specimen was found in the Arabian Sea in 2011.

Biodiversity hotspot

Recently, a few more specimens were collected from the southeastern Arabian Sea, off the Kerala coast. These specimens had also reached the Gopalpur ZSI for identification.

Marine eels are mostly found in shallow waters but some of them live offshore in sandy or clayey bottoms ranging up to 500 metres. According to Dr. Mohapatra, till now, 49 species of moray eel from 10 genera had been reported from Indian waters, and their species numbers have increased to 50 with the new addition.

An estuarine museum is coming up on the campus of the ZSI at Gopalpur.

This first-of-its-kind museum in Odisha is expected to be ready by the end of 2021.

To be built at a cost of over ₹11 crore, it will showcase the coastal and marine animal diversity of the country, with a special focus on Odisha and the Chilika lake.

S. Africa struggles to bury inequality

Designer cemeteries with luxury services creating an ‘economic apartheid’

REUTERS
JOHANNESBURG

If death is the great equaliser, South Africa’s designer graveyards look like one of the best ends on offer.

With hot tea, wifi and soft sofas for visitors and relatives, a new breed of luxury cemetery is reinforcing divides between Johannesburg’s haves and have-nots.

Memorial Park cemetery in Soweto, South Africa’s biggest township, is one of five cemeteries owned by listed company Calgro M3, whose fortunes are tied to land and housing.

The plush cemeteries they have added to their portfolio of houses and retirement homes have sharply divided opinion: lauded as a wise investment by some, derided

as elitist by others. “Everyone deserves a decent send-off,” said Lawrence Poole, who buried his cousin in the cemetery last month.

“But unfortunately this is dependent on your pocket,” he said from the Nasrec Memorial Park office.

Grave plots at the Nasrec Memorial Park range from 24,500 rand (₹1.15 lakh) to 360,000 rand (₹16.77 lakh) for an eight-person family plot with extra features, such as plants and benches.

A burial plot at a public cemetery costs 3,000 rand (₹14,300) on average.



A landscaped grave plot in Nasrec Memorial Park.

crime, even in cemeteries. Mourners have reported graveside muggings, ransacked cars, and even coffins dug up to be resold to unknowing customers.

“The cemetery is an idiom for the segregation we still see today in post-apartheid South Africa,” said Thulisile Mphambukeli, a town plan-

ner and senior lecturer at the University of the Free State.

In Johannesburg there are 32 public cemeteries, plus a handful of private ones, according to the City of Johannesburg.

With about 14,000 burials a year, the city estimates there are enough plots available for the next half century.

“Designer cemeteries segregate South Africans on class. It is a continuity of inequality created by apartheid,” Ms. Mphambukeli told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Memorial Parks denies any “economic apartheid”. “This is not an elitist space,” said Wikus Lategan, chief executive officer of Calgro M3.

FRIDAY REVIEW

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Story of song

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Masterclass
Seetha
Nagajyoti

Showing the way

The pupils of gurus Seetha Nagajyoti and P. Nagajyoti presented solo and group pieces with energetic footwork and drama

RANEE KUMAR

It was refreshing to watch an archetypal Kuchipudi repertoire after a long time. Being a derivative of the original Bhagavata Mela performed by male artistes alone, the dance form appears to lay stress on drama, footwork and exaggerated gestures vis-a-vis other classical dance forms. Unless nuanced and refined with sensitivity, Kuchipudi still retains its fairly unpolished structure where the emotive ingredient is either lacking or is hyperbolic in expression.

“Krishnarpanam” (Offering to Krishna) was an attempt to string together various compositions relating to Lord Krishna to justify the title and also maintain the customary Kuchipudi repertoire like Jati swaram and plate dance as part of Tarangam.

The pupils of gurus Seetha Nagajyoti and P. Nagajyoti presented solo and group pieces with energetic footwork and drama. Abhinaya Nagajyoti, the best in solo, imbibed from her gurus the artistic bends and curves so inherent to the finer aspects of the solo in this art form.

Her “Krishna Shabdham” was a sprightly dance where she excelled in both footwork patterns and abhinaya. In the druth kaal (speed cycle), she could have taken more care on the clarity of hashta mudra.

The highlight of the evening was the veteran guru Seetha’s crisp solo abhinaya of an extract from the popular “Bhama Kalapam”. She portrayed the bashful Satyabhama who is questioned by her sakhi to reveal the name of her beloved (Krishna).

“Siggaye no yamma...” (I’m engulfed by shyness) saw Seetha enact the reservations the nayika has in uttering the name of her husband in tune with the women of ancient times. Her varied postures and facial expressions for the repeated refrain were convincing to the core. Her agility in movements were commendable. Though brief, the guru made a tremendous impact on the audience with her simple costume and minimalistic makeup. Her presence and performance elicited spontaneous applause.

The show was hosted at CSOI auditorium in New Delhi.

The pull of pure sound

Kedia Brothers and Ustad Sabir Khan regaled the Delhi audience with their sonorous performances

MANJARI SINHA

The ‘Shudh Dhvani Festival of Music’ organised by Snehalata Memorial Foundation at the Triveni Kala Sangam was special in the sense that it sought no help from any sponsor and managed with their own limited resources. The positive result was obvious in the choice of the artists featured, with no interference or pressure from the so-called music-loving sponsors. The inaugural evening itself featured a rare ‘Sitar-Sarod Jugalbandi’ by the highly deserving but rarely seen on Capital’s concert platforms, the Jharkhand Ratna (gems of Jharkhand) Kedia Brothers and a tabla Solo by Ustad Sabir Khan, the doyen of Farrukhabad Gharana from Kolkata.

Trained under gurus like Ud. Ali Akbar Khan, Vidushi Annapurna Devi and Pt. Sunil Mukherjee, Mormukut Kedia plays the sitar and Manoj Kedia plays the sarod, but always together. Mormukut shared the interesting reason behind it. Their father Pt. Shambhu Dayal Kedia, a senior disciple of Pt. Kishan Maharaj and a staunch admirer of Maihar gharana once had a trance-like experience while listening to a jugalbandi between Ud. Ali Akbar Khan and Pt. Ravi Shankar and pledged, “if I ever have two sons, they would be trained in Maihar Gharana to play duets of sitar and sarod.”

Sacred thread

Mormukut added, “Ud. Ali Akbar Khan tied the sacred thread at our home in a small village Pachamba with proper rituals, when he came to play a concert accompanied by our father on tabla. He later suggested, “Since I mostly live abroad, they should learn from my sister Annapurna in Mumbai. Guru Ma (Annapurna Devi), he reiterated, agreed on one condition that



Complementing each other (Clockwise from top) Manoj Kedia (sarod) and Mormukut Kedia (sitar); Ustad Sabir Khan; Pt. Ronu Majumdar ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, MOHAMMED YOUSUF

we would always play together if we wanted to train under her tutelage. Kedias were further trained under Pt. Sunil Mukherjee, the senior-most disciple of Ud. Ali Akbar Khan but continued playing duets as promised to their departed guru.

The essence of a successful duet is a high level of individual musicianship and the personal chemistry between the two artists.

Kedia Brothers, as expected, complimented each other, taking turns right from their main raga Jhinjhoti, comprising a detailed alap-jod-jhala, a slow masitkhani, a medium tempo gat set to addha theka and a drut Teentala composition reaching the climax of a jet speed but totally tuneful jhala. The concluding dhun in Pilu was also prefaced with a melancholic alap replete with sonorous soot on Sarod and embellishments like Krintan-Zamzama and lahek on sitar with a striking compatibility as if both were on the same wavelength.

Debashish Adhikari provided them able accompaniment on tabla, except for keeping up with the challenging speed of the concluding jhala.

The SNA Awardee and Grammy nominee for his album ‘Drums of India’, Ud. Sabir Khan, the Khalifa of Farrukhabad Gharana, played an elaborate Teentala in vilambit, madhya and drut laya, the slow, medium and fast tempos, assisted on tabla by his son and disciple Asif Khan and Kumud Ranjan on either side. Ehsan Ali was there to provide them lehra in Charukeshi on sarangi.

Opening with the remark, “Bahut saalon ke baad aaj Dilli mein bajane ka mauka mila hai” (got this opportunity to play in Delhi after many many



years), Ud. Sabir Khan played an aalap-like peshakara to begin with. The thoughtfully tuned tabla trio, with the broad-faced tabla of Kumud tuned in mandra pancham, Sabir Khan’s tabla in madhya shadja and Asif’s on taar Shadja, created a unique and melodious Samvaad of Shadja-Pancham Bhava.

One came across the choicest of bandishes (tabla compositions) of the Farrukhabadi Baaj right from the opening peshakara to the quayada, palta, fard, gat and electrifying relas played in perfect sync together or in sawal-jawab mode one after the other. One even noticed the coy smile on the face of the Guru, when the competent disciples played the crisp repartees and made him proud.

It was a memorable musical feast, a labour of love by Binayanand and his elder brother in memory of their mother Late Snehlata, who died of cancer.

Legends of India concert

The Baithak by Legends of India presented a flute recital by Pt. Ronu Majumdar at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The senior flautist of Maihar Gharana, Ronu has been associated with Pt. Ravi Shankar with many of his projects like the ‘Chants of India’. He has also done collaborations with Western and Jazz musicians

hence one was not surprised to find a synthesizer also along with the tabla and pakhawaj for accompaniment.

Pt. Majumdar opened with a serene aalap in the riveting raga Gorakh Kalyan on his Moti Bansuri in Mandra Sapatak, the lower octave, which deserved the exquisite backdrop of a perfectly tuned tanpura. Unfortunately, the wavering sound of the Kansara synthesizer instead, marred the melodious ambience of the raga. Young Rohit on synthesizer seemed to be an intelligent boy who could imitate Ronu during the gat compositions, but to improvise in aalap, one needs proper taalim of a raga. The undesired notes of his synthesizer kept intruding the raga whenever he tried to respond. Once Ronu corrected him too, but the performance stage is not essentially a place for taleem or riyaz.

It was a delight to listen to the accurately calculated rhythmic patterns in Rupak and Teentala on tabla played with utmost clarity of bols by Ramdas Palsule, the senior most disciple of Pt. Suresh Talwalkar in response to the feats of flute. Pt. Majumdar also showcased a ‘Tani Avartanam’ like jugalbandi between tabla by Palsule and pakhawaj by Omkar Dalvi, preceding the jhala.

The main raga was followed with a Dhun ‘In Love with Kashmir’ set to Chanchar Theka of Deepchandi that opened with the sonorous shades of Pahadi but then descended into the dissonance of vivadi swaras depicting the negative impact of terrorist activities. He also played a lighter piece in Maand, a Banarasi Kajri and ‘Bada Natkhat hai Krishna Kanhaiya’ on public demand, celebrating Janmashtami.

“Gita Govinda” saw acclaimed artistes exploring different facets of the Lord

ANURADHA VELLAT

During the Bhakti movement of 6th century, Krishna transformed from being God to a concept that represented a unified whole. The Vaishnava saints of Bhakti became enablers, who approached this concept with a certain sense of humanism and accessibility, making him more human and less God. The universal appeal associated with Krishna made him the friend, the husband, the child, the mother and the sakhi.

The plethora of poetry, music and performative arts created during this time became a continued tradition, which went on to form one of the pillars of the classical arts tradition of India, making it a living tradition.

As part of the Janmashtami celebrations organised by the India Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, called “Gita Govinda”, acclaimed Mohiniyattam dancer Bharati Shivaji curated a two-day festival showcasing six different classical arts traditions on the theme of “Gita Govinda”. The artiste line-up was stellar and included Bharati Shivaji and group, Dhrupad artiste Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, Odissi dancer Ranjana Gauhar and group, Manipuri artistes Singhajit Singh, Charu Sija Mathur and the Manipuri Nri-tyashram, Carnatic vocalist Sudha Raghuraman and Kathak by Shovana Narayan and her Asavari Repertory.

Says Bharati, “I always tried to understand Mohiniyattam in its regional perspective. Even in the reconstruction that I worked on, it helped me go into the indigenous art forms. In Guruvayoor, the musical tradition of Sopanam and its rendering is very different, it has a devotional mood to it. The Kottipaadi seva is a living tradition and I wanted to highlight that through my choreography.” The group began with an invocation which highlighted the mood of devotion to Guruvayoorappan. The devotees are depicted as singing in the sanctum sanctorum with the Edakka, and then the gopis invoke the blessings of the lord.

Later, Radha enters with her Sakhi and as they observed, they saw Krishna dancing with the many gopis. An upset Khandita Nayika of Radha is led to Yahi Madhava, later depicting the divine love of Krishna with Priye Charuseele. Even though the dramatisation in itself was entirely soulful, what

Seeking Krishna



In bliss A scene from Manipuri dance recital; Bharati Shivaji in performance ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

really stood out was Deepa Ramakrishnan's depiction of Guruvayoorappan, highlighted by her nuanced abhinaya and clear movements. Vani Pahwa as Radha and Bharati herself as Sakhi too delivered splendid performances.

Soulful alaap

Dhrupad's tryst with Krishna is inescapable. Beginning with a soulful alaap in Yaman that describes Krishna's bansuri, Ustaad Wasifuddin Dagar went on sing “Gita Govinda” compositions in Chandrakosh and Miyan ki Malhar. The personality of the ragas were highlighted in Dagar's renditions. The control over his gamak was impeccable with extensive support from his accompanying artistes, with Pandit Mohan Shyam on the pakhawaj and Shivam Bharadwaj and Santosh Kumar on the tanpura. The next performance was by acclaimed Odissi dancer Ranjana Gauhar and her disciples. The group began with Ranjana's modified choreography of the “Dasavatar”, which had many new elements, intertwined into the classic. Ranjana did a solo of the iconic ashtapadi “Dheere Samire”, and was followed by a group presenta-

tion of the abhinaya piece, “Lalita Lavanga Lata”.

It was more inclined towards pure dance, representing the joy of Basant. Spring in itself is a season heavily associated with Krishna. Says Ranjana, “Odissi was sung and danced in the temples of Jagannath Puri for centuries. The bhakti and devotion and surrender with which the Mahari carried it, is still an integral part of the art-form. Krishna is the philosophy of existence, of relationships, and of love.” In pieces like “Dheere Samire”, the character of the Sakhi is of much more importance than the protagonists. She is often the unifying force.

“The Sakhi binds the atma and parmatma. In ‘Dheere Samire’, Krishna is pining for love and Sakhi is the guru, who gives directions. On the face of it, it looks like love, but there is a certain universality associated to it. ‘Gita Govinda’ walks parallel worlds, the material and the spiritual, while maintaining the dignity, purity and sacredness,” adds Ranjana.

The second day began with Manipuri performance by Singhajit Singh, Charu Sija Mathur and the Manipuri Nri-tyashram.

The dance slowly developed on the intricacies of “Raas Leela” and the spirituality that has long been associated with the dance form. The second performance was by Carnatic vocalist Sudha Raghuraman, who began with a shloka from the Balamukunda Stotram (Karavindena Padaravindam). She followed it with Swagatam Krishna in Mohana, in Tisra nada eka talam, a composition of Oothukaadu Venkata Subbair.

Immense scope

This was followed by Pananasam Sivam Kriti, in Ragam Varamu or Shuddha Hindolam set to Adi talam. She also sang an ashtapadi Pravisha Radhe,

composed by M Balamuralikrishna, ending with Abhang and Sankeertan. “I like to end with a bhakti sankeertan, it leads to an ecstasy. I called it Krishnarpanam,” says Sudha. Her meticulous singing was followed up by a request from the audience, after which she very gracefully rendered “Krishna Nee Begane”. “Krishna is my friend, boyfriend, son, and mother. Each song has a different kind of bhakti, with srinagara in ashtapadi, sravana of attributes, vatsalya in Krishna Nee Begane, etc. There is immense scope just to explore him,” says Sudha. She was accompanied by G Raghuraman on the flute, Kumbakonam N Padmanaban on the Mrudangam, Shambhu Nath Bhattacharjee on the tabla and N Hari Narayanan on the ghatam.

The festival ended with Shovana Narayan and her Asavari Repertory's Kathak. “For Kathak, from the Gangetic belt we have poetry galore on Krishna. For many dance forms, it begins with Jayadev, but we have Meera Bai and Vidyapati and so many others. I just took ‘Gita Govinda’ as divine songs of Krishna as my motive, to be soaked in the love and colour of Krishna. That is why my evening was called Krishnamayi,” says Shovana.

She started with Vallabhacharya's “Madhurashtakam”, following it with a solo Natwari Nrutya part of Kathak. “In Kathak there is a popular belief ‘ta tai tai tai tat’ was the sound that emanated from the dancing feet of Krishna. All the rhythmic patterns which had the imageries of Krishna was based on Natwari Nrutya,” says Shovana. Shovana's abhinaya depicted three moods of the nayika - angry, jealous/sad and playful. “She waits and he does not come. And then when he does come, it is ‘Kahe ko mere ghar aaye ho...’”, laughs Shovana. She followed it with Yahi Madhava and a Meera bhajan.

Politics over fire

Convolutd but relevant, “Agin Tiriya” raises contemporary issues

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

In the primordial world, Agni (Fire) was the symbol of power and knowledge which was monopolised by those at the top of social hierarchy. The struggle of the deprived people against the powerful to possess fire to share power and knowledge has been dramatised by playwrights from time to time. Greek dramatist Aeschylus (525 BC-456 BC) wrote “Prometheus Bound” who brought fire from heaven to earth to liberate humanity from ignorance.

Doodhnath Singh's “Yum Gatha”, directed by Bhanu Bharti for the Repertory Company of National School of Drama, gave a new dimension to the mythological character of Pururava and his beloved Urvashi and his fight against Gods who have monopolised fire. Now we have seen “Agin Tiriya” presented by Lokjagruiti Sanstha Chandrapur, Maharashtra, at Shri Ram Centre recently. Though the narrative is convoluted and the philosophical kernel emerges in a tedious way, highly expressive vocal and instrumental music, finely designed costumes and admirable performances by the cast redeem the production.

Harmony with nature

Written by Ravindra Bharti, the play is directed by Sangeeta Tiple who graduated from the National School of Drama. The play opens with forest dwellers, dancing in an environment which is in harmony with nature. They seem to talk about glow worms. We meet Vandevi who claims to be endowed with the prowess of becoming invisible. They are peaceful people but live under the constant threat of powerful priestly class who control fire, guarding it with their superior might and are determined to keep forest dwellers in darkness. The forest dwellers suffer implacably from the dreaded priests but they have not accepted defeat and continue to devise strategy to bring fire from the possession of priests and march on the road to progress.

In the play, we find the contrast between the lifestyle of forest dwellers and priests. The forest dwellers live in a commune type of social organisation with hardly any contradiction. The social system of powerful people who control fire is ruled with an iron fist by Mahapriest. The young people initiated into the ritualistic culture of the high society are subjected to rigorous discipline who have to devote their time on study and meditation, keeping their desire under control.

Continued on page 7



Provocative drama A scene from the play

SHAILAJA KHANNA

Shubha Mudgal is respected in the world of classical music as much for her music as for her fierce support for causes she holds dear - be it artist copyright issues or transparency of dealings with artists. Her latest offering, a book of short stories called “Looking for Miss Sargam: Stories of Music and Misadventure” personifies Shubha beautifully. It is self deprecating and highlights the inner workings of an artist’s world. Each of the seven stories brings out a valid issue in the world of classical music - be it the inescapable importance of marketing, the ephemeral lure of foreign concerts, the non saleability of classical music recordings, the allure of awards or the dominance of Bollywood.

Excerpts: **You have commented that writing a book was not easy; it required riyaaz. What made you write this book?**

I had worked on a story that I hoped could have been dramatised, but it didn’t happen. So, I had it lying around and I then thought of writing a book of short stories. This was the first story of the book - “Aman Bol”. In fact, I wrote more stories than the seven stories which have been published.

It was fun writing this book. I am an avid reader and there is amazing, intense writing out there. I actually feel very lucky to even be published. I thought



This is totally a work of fiction, none of the stories are modelled on any real life person or incident. Being a part of the world of music for so long, I have an insider’s view as my life for decades has been with musicians

Beyond Melody

Ahead of her concert in Delhi, Shubha Mudgal talks about her latest offering - a book of short stories where the line between fact and fiction often gets blurred

Insider's view Shubha Mudgal says marketing has become an important part of music industry ■ THE HINDU

my being a singer may actually go against me. People may say she is a singer what does she know of writing. I hope the narrative is gripping enough for readers.

There are some uncannily real people and situations in the book! In each of the stories, one can almost recognise someone familiar...

This is totally a work of fiction, none of the stories are modelled on any real life person or incident. Being a part of the world of music for so long, I have an insider’s view as my life for decades has been with musicians, but there are no direct correspondences with any real person or incident.

Marketing in the world of classical music is a recurring theme; it appears in many stories. Is it really such a big issue?

Absolutely. Marketing is such an important part of our industry today and it forces you to project yourself in a certain way. Costumes, add ons to your regular attire have become a part of the world of show business. I refer to this in the first story “Aman Bol”.

Would one be a lesser Sufi singer if one dressed in a different

way; I don’t know, but certain things are now expected. I am not hinting this is wrong in any way. It’s just become a way of life. Marketing of oneself has become a part of the world and it’s an issue that artists are forced to grapple with.

There is a seamy side to the world of classical music that you have alluded to in each story...

I have tried not to pass any judgements. I have created stories that reflect the times we are living in. Whether it’s talking about organisers or artists, or attitudes. In each of the stories there is a darker side of the world of music being shown, but you may not see it or you may just laugh it off. There are ups and downs in each artist’s life - whether it’s in getting accepted, the hard work and discipline required - the constant balance of trying to make a decent honest living from music. I have not hidden any of this. Even the greatest names have had to struggle. I would again like to reiterate that there are no real life incidents or people; it’s pure fiction.

The only facts in the book are the high and lows in an artist’s life which each of the sto-

ries talks about. These are in my life too and I have been happy to have this life.

Miss Sargam appears in some of the stories; who is she really?

Miss Sargam is not a main character in any of the stories. She appears, now and again, symbolically representing the life of any artist anywhere in the world. In one story she is referred to as having become successful in popular music and is now going back to classical music, in another story she can sing in both male and female voices.

I see her as symbolically dealing with the rapid changes an artist anywhere in the world has to adjust to. She is trying to adapt to changing times, re-invent herself, and immerse herself in different highly complex, evolved systems of music to enrich herself and her own knowledge. Because she appears as an Indian anchor, in this book she is Miss Sargam but actually she could fly anywhere in the world!

The story on Bollywood, “Making of a star” is sad, and not as funny as the others.

I, personally, have been

On her bond with Delhi

I have had a very long association with Delhi, I moved to Delhi in the 1980s and it was here that I was able to learn from some very eminent scholar musicians and Gurus. Pt Vinay Chandra Maudgalya, the founder of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, I also learnt from Naina Devi ji, who was in Delhi then, and taught me for several years. Also, I got the opportunity to learn from Pt Vasant Thakar, who was a very revered figure at the time. It was in Delhi that I first started singing in small festivals that featured young musicians, including the Navodit Kalakaar Samaroh that used to then take place. I can proudly say I am a Dilliwallah, despite the fact that my husband lives in Mumbai, which is my home now, and I now shuttle between the two cities. Delhi has been very kind to me. There are several organisations doing a lot to make Delhi musically vibrant. But I feel we need many more performing spaces for Indian music. Delhi is home to many musicians, some are very eminent, but there is also a large population of young musicians who have decided to take music full time. A lot of time and money is spent on construction, but audio engineers are rarely consulted on what is the best equipment for Indian music. Even if the sound equipment is installed, no care is taken to maintain it, or replace things. That’s why, very often, in many places in Delhi one needs to hire sound equipment from outside. Neither is the equipment available nor is there trained staff to handle it. I think it’s high time the NCR region gets better auditoria. The Metro in Delhi has made mobility much easier, but for musicians carrying instruments, there are problems.

treated with huge respect and affection in the few times I have sung for Bollywood.

But yes, people in positions of power in Bollywood do sometimes have a sense of patronage and condescension.

In “Manzoor Rahmani”, you talk of the importance of an award for a lesser known musician, the hierarchy amongst musicians...

For Manzoor Rahmani, a ‘khandaani’ musician, his legacy was his music. Yet today that’s changed. The legacy he wants to leave behind for his children is an acknowledgment of his music through a

Padma award.

He is prepared to share the fiercely guarded musical compositions he inherited to get an award. For a musician, traditionally, these were treasures. They were considered your wealth. This is a much larger issue of what our priorities have become. For me, it’s very sad. The priorities have changed so much. Again, there is no judgement being made - Manzoor voluntarily gave away the music in the hope of getting an award.

The hierarchy in that story does exist in the world of music, it’s real.

Tell us about your forthcoming concert in Delhi.

I am performing at the Parampara festival, organised by Natyatarangini. It’s always a pleasure when an artist invites you to perform at a festival that they have been organising for many years now.

The highly renowned Kuchipudi Gurus Shri Raja Reddy, Smt Radha and Smt Kaushalya Reddy have invited me for this festival earlier as well, but it’s been several years now.

(Shubha Mudgal will perform on August 30 at Parampara Series 2019, Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, 7 p.m.)

‘Our thought processes are always aligned’

Trichur Brothers on their harmonious bond on stage and off it

RANEE KUMAR

You stand transfixed as the duo in jeans and tees usher you in! Are they the Trichur Brothers one has come for? Well, you get a confirmation and there you are facing the stars on the Carnatic music firmament.

In a tête-à-tête on the eve of their concert at the Parampara Series-2019, the pair reflect on the milestones in their musical odyssey. “It wasn’t a rocky climb to fame, though it was an arduous one,” says Ramkumar. Their Delhi foray actually began with taking up a music video project ‘Namami Gange.’ anthem in 2016 for the government’s River Ganga purification project. Its stupendous success encouraged them to compose ‘Vande Bharatambe,’ a salutation to the Armed forces which went down well in the north and south of India.

Right beginning

Ramkumar introduces us to their roots. “Our father Trichur Mohan being a musician-an expert mridangist, paved the way for a natural bent of mind in us towards music, right from childhood. Our passion was fuelled by our earnest gurus like Madurai Balamani, Neyyantikara Mohan Chandran, Chengalput Ranganathan and PS Narayanaswami, not to talk of stalwarts of music like Chembai, Semmangudi, MS Subbulakshmi visiting our home in Guruvayoor in our childhood. The temple of Guruvayoor is the seat of music concerts and so we were nurtured in the apt envi-

rons.”

Despite being steeped in music, academics were never neglected. Both rose up to be chartered accountants in multi-national companies. “We’ve quit our jobs a few years ago, unable to juggle between two exacting professions,” quips Srikrishna. “Time management was getting to be challenging as we were in pretty senior positions. To be honest, our working places provided us the much-needed impetus to take up concerts in the formative years of our musical journey. In fact, at times, I feel we had greater time on hand while working and taking up concerts than now!” chips in Ramkumar. It means they have come a long way from their early years at Chennai music season shows! “A long way by the grace of God,” says he and one can’t miss the note of unalloyed joy in his voice. “With back-to-back concerts, we have realised our passion to become full-time musicians.”

No regrets? “None,” pat comes the answer from both the brothers. “We both enjoy music and it was a joint decision to make it a full-time career,” says Ramkumar

Though both are strong vocalists in their own right, why did they not choose to be individual singers? “Right from childhood, we were taught together and we excelled in the same scale of excellence. There was uniformity in the tone and tenor of our voices. It never occurred to either of us to branch out as a solo vocalist,” says Srikrishna.

There are many facets to a classical music concert. Things like

alapana (alaap/preface to raga), improvisation (manodharma) and other nuances are not done jointly but alternately. Did not ego issues crop up when on stage? Srikrishna says, “It sounds unbelievable but no, we have no ego issues at all. Our thought processes are always aligned. When we plan a concert, there are suggestions that keep going into the final concert list. Eventually, the individual opinions get buried as the brand Trichur Brothers is most pivotal to us. Of course there can be mood variations on certain days with regard to picking up a raga but then as we sit on stage, the mood with regard to the raga somehow matches. Even when I start a kriti in the raga I want, somehow I find an echo in Srikrishna surprisingly. The vibes have always been there, thanks to God. Our gurus have always stressed on the fact that the synergy of singing together brings out the best in both of us,” explains Ramkumar.

He attributes it to his parents who have kept them grounded, taught them to be humble at all times and stressed upon them that ego trips can result in regrettable decisions.

Since all said and done the recitals are by two vocalists, is there some sort of plan or rehearsal of who is to take up the preface for a particular piece; how is the manodharma (swarakalpna/improvisation) shared?

“In the manodharma aspect, 99 per cent of what we do happens basically on stage. Since we’ve been singing together since

childhood, each of us know what the other is going to sing or the kind of development of the alapana or swarakalpna the other is going to take up. To be clearer, it is like this: when Srikrishna, for instance, stops at the daivatam (dha) I know automatically and move to a rishabam or gandharvam so that it floats well with his. Planning can only work to a certain extent like we may plan the raga for a ragam tanam pallavi (RTP). But, sometimes, even this has to be changed on the spot going by the audiences’ pulse,” clarify the brothers in unison

Innovative approach

Traditionalists in music, but progressive enough to adopt and adapt the latest technological tools, Trichur Brothers floated an online music classes portal trichurbrothers.com a year ago and fond an overwhelming response from aspirants across the globe. “It is a syllabus-oriented module and very professional one at that,” says Ramkumar. “Technological advances are able to install ‘bhava’ (emotional quotient) into classical vocal singing unlike yesteryears where the classicality was rigid and refused to get ‘diluted’ with emotional rendition. But the field has become competitive now, unlike the good old days when the front stage musicians had great regard for each other’s talent and fame. Today, obviously, it is not so. So too the commercial aspect which is inversely proportionate to our acquired comfort levels,” the duo sign off with a laugh.



In sync: Trichur Brothers

Resonance

The sound of divinity

Damaram is played during temple processions and utsavams

DR M. LALITHA AND M. NANDINI



After our concert at Sri Adi Kesava Perumal temple in Sriperumbudur, where we performed as part of the temple festival, we witnessed the performance of the ancient musical instrument Damaram, which was played along with mridangam and talam. We also enjoyed a musical ensemble with around 10 performers playing the instrument at Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple in Kanchipuram.

Damaram, made of wood, is a set of drums, conical in shape, resembling flower pots. It belongs to the category of Avanaddha Vadyas. One face of the instrument is covered with cow hide while the other, with that of the goat. Two sticks, made from *Arali kuchi*, are used for playing this instrument. One stick is straight while the other is a bit curved.

This instrument is played before the beginning of the *veedhi ula* (street procession) of the Lord and also is part of the procession. It is either placed on a bullock cart and played or the performer sits on the ground during temple festivals.

Adding to the festivity

"At the Varadaraja Swami temple, Kanchipuram, the performance of Damaram is a must on two occasions – Thatha Desikan satrumurai, a one-day ritual, and Manavalammuni satrumurai, which is performed for 10 days," says Srinivasan, who plays the Damaram here. During these utsavams, the Damaram is played during Tirumanjanam. During the Thatha Desikan satrumurai, 10 artistes sit in the mandapam and perform till the Lord returns to the temple after the procession. During Manavalammuni satrumurai two performers play the instrument.

These days Damaram is played during the Panguni utsavam at the Varadar temple, both in the morning and evening and at the tirukalyana utsavam of the deity with Malaya Nachiyar.

At the Sriperumbudur Adi Kesava Perumal temple, Damaram is played along with Thi-

ruchinnam during the Vishwarupa Darisanam in the morning and along with mridangam, talam and tiruchinnam for the thiruvadanam that forms part of the evening rituals.

This rare instrument is played with other instruments such as nagara, dhol, nagaswaram and thavil on occasions such as the Panchaparuva Purapadu that takes place every month during amavasya (new moon), pour-nami, ekadasi, Tamil masapirapu and Perumal tirunakshatram.

At the Kanchi Kamakshi Amman temple during the Vidadayatri utsavam, Damaram is played along with instruments such as tiruchinnam, mukhavina, nagaswaram, thavil, mridangam and Brahma talam. The priest mentions the name of the instrument and the performer plays it. Each time it is played, it takes



different names as the sound emanating varies.

For example, bheri vadyam, when only the left side of the Damaram is used; surya vadyam, where the right side is played with two sticks. Palaga vadyam, arabi vadyam, tagur vadyam and raja vadyam are the other names given to Damaram based on the way it is being played by the performer.

We found out that Damaram is played at the Nitya Kalyana Perumal temple, Mahabalipuram, also. After the sarva vadyam, the nagaswaram and thavil performers stay back in the temple mandapam while the Damaram artistes go out of the temple to perform.

Witnessing the performance of ancient instruments like Damaram in historical temples is proof enough of the fact that the tradition is kept alive despite modernisation.

The writers are well-known Carnatic musicians

Theatre Talk

DEEPA GAHLOT



What they say about luck meaning being at the right place at the right time, applies to Seema Pahwa. She was at a party when Naseeruddin Shah asked her if she'd like to do a reading for his group Motley (that completed 40 years in July this year).

"I went over, he gave me a story to read, he liked the way I did it, and I was in *Katha Collage*. We had never met before that party; I knew him of course – who doesn't? But I had no idea he knew me. From what I had read, he was against *Hum Log* (the iconic Door-darshan soap opera that made young Seema Bhargava a star) for pushing audiences back to domestic drama, when art cinema had started evolving their tastes – so I doubt he saw any episodes. Later, I asked him how he thought of casting me and he said, 'a little bird tweeted in my ear.' He asked Manoj Pahwa (Seema's husband) to read too, and though he was nervous about going on stage after a long gap, Naseer rid him of those fears. He is responsible for getting us back on the stage in Mumbai. The association has lasted for 15 years, I haven't done too many plays for Motley, but we have done many shows of those productions. Then he and Ratna acted in my production *Bhishmotsav*, and then in my film (under production), so the bond has only strengthened over the years."

Seema, daughter of stage actress Saroj Bhargava, started performing in theatre and radio plays in Delhi when she was a child. "By the time I grew up, I had worked with all the best directors in Delhi at the time, like B.M. Vyas, B.V. Karanth, Bansi Kaul, Bhanu Bharti and Rajinder Nath. I have done everything from street theatre to Ramleelas to performing at fairs like the famous Nauchandi Mela. There is no better way to shed all *hichak* (inhibitions) than performing for crowds in open-air spaces. There is chaos, kids howling, people eating *chaat*, and you have to reach them above the din, and have no clue how they will react. I worked with the three major repertory companies in Delhi – LTG, Shri Ram Centre and NSD. I did a series of classic plays, like 'Aadhe Adhure', 'Khamosh Adalat Jari Hai', 'Qaid-e-Hayat', 'Natsamrat', so I had learnt from every experience and developed my own style."

She met Manoj Pahwa while working in theatre, and they acted in many plays with the group Sambhav. "Then, we thought we are comfortable together on stage, why not think about a life together? It's been 31 years now."

When Seema and Manoj Pahwa came to Mumbai with a whole body of theatre and television work behind them, they wanted to do

A peek into the world of Seema Pahwa

The popular 'Hum Log' actor talks about her journey in theatre and films



theatre, but had no idea how to go about it. "Everybody has their own group and are not too welcoming to outsiders. We did not have the resources to start our own group. Manoj got fed up and took up films. I was lucky to have got an opportunity to work with Motley, which, of course I jumped at. Naseeruddin Shah is an institution by himself, and what I learnt from him I could not have in any drama school."

All in the family

When the Pahwa children, Manukriti and Mayank returned after studying drama from MS University, Baroda, the family formed their group Kopal. "With them, we had the pillars with which to build a group. Mayank is also a writer." Kopal took off with the memorable 'Saag Meat', based on a powerful Bhisham Sahni story about the class divide, in which Seema actually cooks the dish on stage, and it is served to audiences after the show.

In the Eighties, back in Delhi, Devendra Raj Ankur had started Kahaani Ka Rangmanch – performances of stories on stage. We had done quite a few Bhisham Sahni



stories. He was alive then and came to watch some of them. Ankur had done 'Saag Meat', with me sitting on a wheelchair and talking to an invisible woman. I wanted to revive the story, but doing it the same way was boring. So I hit upon the idea of the woman cooking on stage; I had to express her emotions and her pain, and also cook a dish that was edible – not just pretend cooking. I am pleased at the success of the play – I must have done over 75 shows."

The Pahwas' theatre work was neglected for a while, when both of them got busy with films. "But now we are planning a show in November. Even though I know it is difficult to recover costs and survive only on theatre. How do we pay actors if there is no money coming in? Then we can't complain if actors go off to do television."

Seema says she got tired of playing the same kind of roles in films, and wrote a script, 'Pind Daan', in which she "got greedy" and gave herself a great role. "Filmmakers keep giving me the same kind of mother roles and then will say that is all I can do. So I went with the script to Rajat Kapoor and Sharat Katariya to direct it, but both felt I should do it since I had directed it for the stage. Naseer advised me to turn it into a play. Then he said, 'if you really wish to, go ahead and make the film, what is the worst that can happen? You will fail. I made a mistake, you make one too.' Anyway, Drishyam produced it, I cast 27 actors mostly from the stage and we had fun doing it. It will be released in October."

Seema's brother Abhay Bhargava is an actor too, so is her nephew, Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub and his wife Rasika Agashe. "We are carrying my mother's legacy forward. We are all doing theatre for ourselves. If we get better known in films, it will help pull in audience for our plays. Then we can think of doing bigger productions. Giving up theatre is not an option... *theatre toh karna hi hai*."

Hindi Belt

The enduring 'Kahani'

Remembering Sripat Rai, the 'weighing balance' of Hindi literature

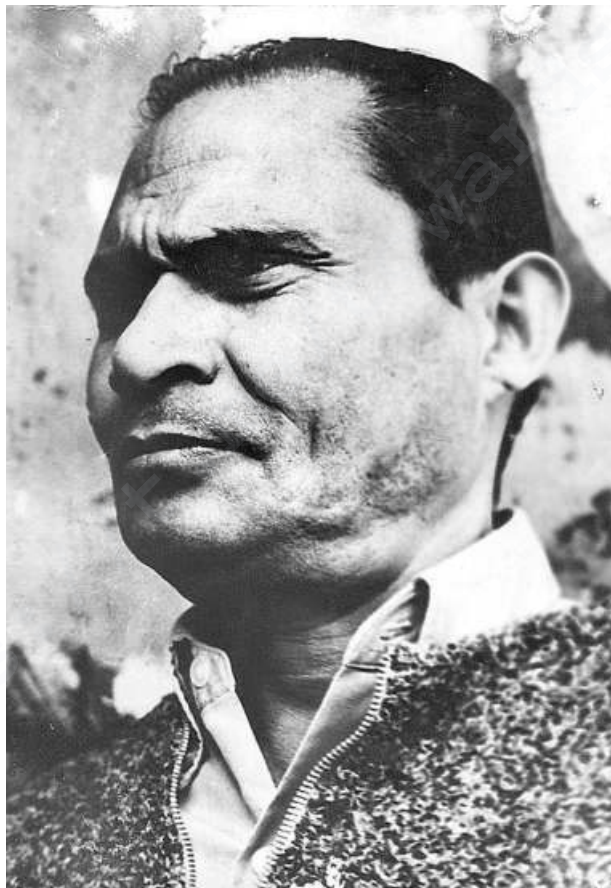
KULDEEP KUMAR

This month on August 18 fell the 103rd birth anniversary of Sripat Rai, eldest son of Premchand, who made a name for himself as a path-breaking publisher, gifted painter, perceptive literary critic, discerning editor of "Kahani" and a great supporter of new literary talents. As is the world's wont, the Hindi literary world has mostly forgotten him and his extraordinary contribution.

Last year, when Hindi journal "Lamahi" (Lamahi is the name of the ancestral village of Premchand and his family) came out with its special number focusing on Sripat Rai, it created a few small waves but the Hindi literary world remained more or less indifferent towards his memory. I came to know Sripat Rai in the early 1980s although I had been going to his house in South Delhi's Hauz Khas since the early 1970s with my friends like Ravi Srivastava who knew the family well.

Family ties

I had acquainted his younger son Anil Rai who was studying economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University where I was studying ancient Indian history. Later, I also became friends with his youngest daughter Sara Rai, who has emerged as a significant Hindi fiction writer and translator. I also knew his younger brother and well known writer-translator Amrit Rai, author of the best known



biography of his father Premchand titled "Kalam Ka Sipahi", and his son Alok Rai separately.

A man of few words, Sripat Rai, for some reason, took a great liking to me and, in moments when he felt particularly affectionate, would call me paaji (scoundrel). If it was Jainendra Kumar who recognised the talent of Sachchidanand Hiranand Vatsyayana 'Agyeya' and recommended his short stories to Premchand for publication in Hindi weekly Jagaran, it was Sripat Rai who published most of Agyeya's early writings including the celebrated two-part novel "Shekhar: Ek Jeevani" under the banner of his Saraswati Press.

Motivating force

He encouraged and promoted a host of emerging writers as he had great respect for those who could create. Little wonder that besides Agyeya, Nirmal Verma, Raghuvir Sahay, Prayag Shukla, Nasira Sharma, Bhairav Prasad Gupta and other such well known writers, painters like M. F. Husain, Ram Kumar, D. D. Patnaik, V. S. Gaitonde and others were also part of his circle of close friends.

The fact that he himself

painted rather well also helped. Had he shown abiding interest in painting, he could have emerged as one of the front-ranking abstract painters of the country. There was a time when his paintings were exhibited in shows held in Paris. When Premchand died in 1936, Sripat Rai was only 20 and Amrit Rai a mere lad of 15. So, the responsibility to take care of the family fell on his shoulders. He had to quit his studies and look after the business of publication as well as the editing of Hans, a monthly magazine that Premchand had started, after its interim editor Jainendra Kumar left for Delhi.

Within a short time, he learnt the ropes and established the business on a firm footing. After a year, he founded "Kahani", a journal solely focused on short story. As Trilochan Shastri, who along with poet Shamsheer Bahadur Singh had worked in the editorial board of the magazine, recalled in a tribute published in a special number of "Kahani" in 1994 after Sripat Rai's death on July 9 in the same year, this was the only magazine of its kind.

"Maya", published by Mitra Prakashan in Allahabad, was the other magazine that devoted special attention to

short story but it focused more on translations from Bengali and other languages rather than on original stories written in Hindi. Sripat Rai's editorials in Kahani, later compiled in a book titled "Kahani Ki Baat", were full of insightful comments that also indicated the direction Hindi short story should take.

Devendra Satyarthi, who earned fame as a collector of folk songs besides being a notable short story writer, compared his editorials with Ustad Bade Ghulam Khan's thumris as they too were full of rasa and rhythm. Namwar Singh, who was widely acclaimed as the top literary critic, said in a conversation with Anurag Atria that "Kahani" was the most talked about magazine in the decades of the 1950s and 1960s as short story had emerged as the central genre, replacing poetry. It also played a role in his becoming primarily a critic of the short story.

Kamaleshwar called Sripat Rai the "weighing balance" of Hindi literature whose critical assessments were hardly ever wide off the mark.

Sripat Rai spoke Bengali fluently as he had spent some time in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Shantiniketan. For a while, he was also a member of Uday Shankar's troupe in Almora where he became friends with Zohra Sehgal whose son Pavan later married his elder daughter Seema.

Authentic versions

Sripat Rai married Zahra, who belonged to an aristocratic Muslim Shia family of Banaras and wrote some very good short stories, and bequeathed the best secular traditions of the Ganga-Jamuni culture to his children. When Premchand died, his books were with various publishers. It was Sripat Rai, who, despite his young age, managed to regain the rights of all these books and brought out their authentic versions in the form of better produced books. His multifaceted personality was immensely fascinating and attracted many aspiring writers to him. One hopes for a day when his contribution will be evaluated in a wholesome manner by the Hindi world.

Politics over fire

Continued from page 3

The object of life is to acquire deep knowledge through meditation and to protect fire from forest dwellers to force them to live in the darkness. One of the young Sanyasi falls in love with a young and beautiful Gandharva, celestial nymph. As soon as he is caught in the company of his sweetheart, the chief of the priestly class orders that since he has committed a sin he should be killed. No dissenting voice is allowed. A priest who had expressed his dissent, was declared renegade.

This is a system where there is no room for mercy and noble human instincts like love. But masses relentlessly attempt to defy this sinister system. In the past the forest dwellers had used the power of becoming invisible as a combative weapon. Poised for a decisive battle against the powerful priests, they resort to camouflage to steal the fire. In the final act a forest woman hiding her identity, acting swiftly brings fire from the control of priests leading to a bloody fight between two camps.

The characters tend to be sketchy. At times viewing becomes tedious. According to the director, the original script will nearly take three hours to unravel. The production under review lasts about 90 minutes. However, the production has remarkable contemporary relevance. It connotes tribal struggle against rapacious powerful people from the plains out to control the huge natural resources of tribal people, reducing them to construction workers.

Anirudha Vankar as one of the forest dwellers is apt to engage the attention of the audience with his fine acting and singing. Deepali Baidar as Agin Tiriya, acts with alacrity, courage and conviction, winning the praise of the audience. Madhumita Barik's Vandevi is resolutely persuasive and wise. Deepak Kumar Bandhu as the aged Sanyasi is a picture of helplessness and pity who surrenders abjectly to the heartless head priest. Shiv Prasad Gond as the angry priest is declared renegade and Sandeep Mishra as the cruel, narrow-minded and sectarian Mahapurohit reveal their consummate acting artistry.

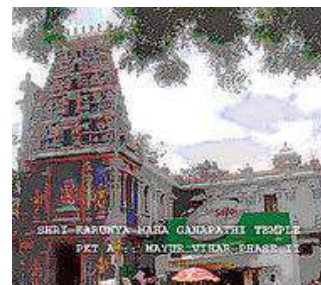
Correction

In the article 'Spreading Wings' carried in these pages on August 23, it was erroneously mentioned that "Unfiltered" was choreographed by Rasika Kumar. It was conceived and choreographed by Rasika Kumar, Sahasra Sambamoorthis and Nadhi Thekkak. The error is regretted.

IN BRIEF

Ganesh Chaturthi celebration

Invoking the blessings of Sri Karunya Maha Ganapathi, Shri Ganesha Sewa Samaj is celebrating 31st Sri Vinayaka Chaturthi Celebrations-2019 at Sri Karunya Mahaganapathi Temple, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi with a five-day programme.



It is auspicious to generously propitiate Lord Ganesha around the period of Sri Ganesh Chaturthi.

Like every year, this year's celebrations will commence on August 30, the auspicious Amavasya day, and the festivities will conclude with the customary Anjaneya utsavam on September 3.

The five-day celebrations will include a variety of homams,

japams, alankarams, anbhishhekams and archanams associated with Lord Ganapathi, along with some cultural programmes, thus providing a unique opportunity for the devotees to fully realise the potential of these holy and cultural activities. The highlight of the celebrations include the street procession of Utsavamurthy on the evening of Sri Ganesh Chaturthi day.

Venue: Sri Karunya Mahaganapathi Temple, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi



Last year, when Hindi journal "Lamahi" (Lamahi is the name of the ancestral village of Premchand and his family) came out with its special number focusing on Sripat Rai, it created a few small waves but the Hindi literary world remained more or less indifferent towards his memory.

Quick Five: Raghu Ram

Unscripted drama

ATIF KHAN

Known for creating various reality shows and speaking his mind, Raghu Ram of the Raghu-Rajeev duo says it is reality shows that can bring change in the content on the web. Best remembered for “Roadies”, he will be seen in the Amazon Prime’s new reality show “Skulls and Roses”. Featuring a bunch of youngsters on a secluded island, it combines romance and adventure in a competition-based format

Excerpts:

How do you think your new show “Skulls and Roses” is different from your earlier ventures?

The level at which it is different is its entertainment factor. This is a new genre that we are creating. It has glamour, sensuous elements and it is gritty. It is at a different level from where we have not gone till now. It has all the elements which we have gathered from our experience with youngsters, and it will reflect how our youngsters are thinking these days.

What do you think about the youth of today?

The youth now has a lot more exposure compared to when we were of their age. They are much more confident, aware and open. Time changes but youth has always been rebellious. They always want to express themselves the way they want. Today’s youth is confident and we have also evolved with time with them. It was a learning process.

In the age of social media where our real lives are on display, how do you think reality shows are relevant?

The strength of reality show as a format is that they come in seasons and they can adapt much faster than a fiction show, which is committed to a certain storyline. There are certain tools of storytelling in reality shows through which we can adapt very easily. A show like “Skulls and Roses” is a step in that direction. It is a new wave of unscripted drama. Art of any kind works only when it is talking about the time we live in.

Out of all your creative endeavours which include “Roadies”, writing a book, acting and songs, what defines you the most?

What defines us is our ability and willingness to venture into a new territory. Be it with “Roadies” or “Splitvilla”, both were one of a kind and also first of their kinds. “A.I.SHA My Virtual Girlfriend”, which was the first digital fiction show in India is first to be in its third season. “Skulls and Roses” is also the first unscripted drama in India. Be it the book, song lyrics or acting in films, it is about us charting to places where we never went and those are the areas which are out of our comfort zone. One can possibly fail but that is where the magic happens.

How do you think it is important as an artist to be politically aware?

It is not just about an artist, it is about everybody. One year ago, I stopped discussing politics in public because I realised we Indians are not enemies of each other. I can differ even with my father politically but I get along with him. I have noticed when we talk about politics, we get into fights. Over the years, I realised it is better to connect with the positive side of everybody. As an artist, if you want to be heard, you should talk and if you don’t want, you should stop. It is not necessary to colour your art with your political opinions.



A roller-coaster ride

Abhimanyu Kukreja’s award-winning documentary “Rockumentary” traces the evolution of Indian Rock music

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

Abhimanyu Kukreja’s award-winning documentary “Rockumentary: Evolution of Indian Rock” recently had a special screening in Noida for the rock and roll enthusiasts in Delhi NCR. Actor-musician Luke Kenny, who himself features in the documentary, was present as the guest of honour alongside Abhimanyu.

Unfolding at a breezy pace, the 79-minute documentary is told through eight sprawling chapters and features the director’s conversations with the likes of Usha Uthup, Louiz Banks, Lou Majaw, Susmit Bose, Remo Fernandes, Zubin Balaporia, Gary Lawyer, Rahul Ram, Imtiaz Ali, and Moa Subong, among others. “Rockumentary” takes us on a roller-coaster ride spread across eight decades starting with the 1930s when a Gorkha musician named George Banks moves to India from Nepal and joins world renowned American jazz pianist Teddy Weatherford’s band as a trumpeter in Calcutta.

It then gallops to the 1950-60s when Calcutta’s Park Street becomes the undisputed home of rock music in India, thanks to the phenomenon called Elvis Presley, but all that alters in the ‘70s with the departure of the Anglo-Indian clientèle from India triggered by various socio-political changes at the turn of the decade.

The Beatles’ famous trip to an ashram in Rishikesh finds an important place in the documentary, among other things such as Psychedelic rock, Folk rock, Hindi rock, and various regional forms of non-English rock in India, as Abhimanyu himself travels to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’s ashram to trace the iconic band’s exploits during their stay in India.

The idea for making a feature-length documentary on the evolution of Indian rock offshoots from a short documentary that Abhimanyu made a decade back on the state of rock music in India while working for a television channel in Delhi. It all originated from a simple curiosity to understand the origins of Indian rock. “We all know the story of American



Passion project Abhimanyu Kukreja ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

rock, German rock, and English rock and so the idea originally came to me in 2008 when I was working for a TV channel. It actually came out of curiosity. I was hanging around with rock bands and so I wondered about the history of rock music in India. If there were bands during my university days then obviously there would have been bands during the 60s, 70s and the 80s. But who were they? That question propelled me and I moved deeper into it and this is the result,” reveals Abhimanyu.

Luke Kenny, who is best known for his part in the 2008 rock musical drama



It’s always been a struggle and still continues to be a struggle for various reasons but it is their passion that keeps them going Luke Kenny

Rock On!!, has always enjoyed a close association with the Indian indie music circuit.

Following his stint as a vocalist with the rock band ‘Greek’ in 1991, he joined the newly-launched Channel V as India’s first male VJ in the year 1995. In between, he also had a brief stint as a DJ. The idea of a documentary on the Indian rock excites Luke just as much. “I think it’s interesting for a new generation and a new audience such as today’s kids who want to take up music as a profession or a vocation or even as a passion to know where it’s all coming from in an Indian context. And that’s exactly what Abhimanyu has done by bringing a few of those stories from hundreds of stories as obviously you cannot fit everybody in 80 minutes. But he has been able to track all the main people who also were deeply passionate and influenced by American and British rock and were at the forefront of the Indian rock scene right from its early days so that today’s generation can listen to these stories and figure it out how to go about these things,” explains Luke who has closely witnessed the rise and fall of a lot of these bands right from his childhood days.

“It’s always been a struggle and still continues to be a struggle for various reasons but it is their passion that

keeps them going,” reminds Luke who is hopeful that documentaries like this will inspire the youngsters who are inclined towards music to follow their passion more wholeheartedly.

It turned out to be a very long struggle for Abhimanyu to complete his passion project. “When I first started the research for the documentary I remember there was not even a Wikipedia page on Indian rock. Today, there is a full-fledged page. So, all these guys that I caught up with was through word of mouth. I did lot of location reccees and artist reccees. I didn’t go straight with a camera to everybody. Firstly, I had to meet a lot of people because I had to convince the musician to give me the treasures of their lives. Also, finding the co-producers was a major challenge. From 2008 to 2012, I was researching and trying to convince the bands. In 2012, I finally found a couple of co-producers that were willing to fund the project and so that’s when the actual shooting started, recounts Abhimanyu who hopes to expand “Rockumentary” into a full-fledged documentary series. He is currently working on an American production titled “Lost India” that endeavours to trace historical and archaeological sites mentioned in the “Mahabharata” spread across the Indian subcontinent.